

THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK TRIBUTE ISSUE

STAR WARS

INSIDER

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF
THE
EMPIRE STRIKES BACK

The Cast and Crew of the Movie Classic Interviewed Inside!

Collectors' Cover 2 of 3



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STAR WARS

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write to us:
UNITED STATES
Star Wars Insider, Titan Magazines,
8295 Santa Monica Blvd, #1-294, West
Hollywood, CA 90046-5977 USA

UNITED KINGDOM
Star Wars Insider, 164 Southway Street
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**"Luke Skywalker and Han Solo rescued
the Princess and destroyed the Death Star,
but their story didn't end there!"**

—*Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back* trailer

What's your favorite scene in *The Empire Strikes Back*? I ask because I simply can't choose a single part of this glorious, timeless movie that set the benchmark for sequels and cinema as a whole.

Might it be the asteroid chase? Well, yes, that is an amazing sequence but what about the Battle of Hoth? Again, it's great, but what about the space slug, or the escape from Cloud City, or Luke's failure in the cave? And what about "I am your Father?"

That's my problem. All of these elements tie together to form just about the most perfect film ever made. There isn't a single standout scene; it's simply a standout movie!

Empire could so easily have been a way to make a fast buck, but thankfully that just isn't George Lucas' way of doing things!

This issue of *Insider* celebrates all things *Empire*. From the snowy plains of Hoth to Luke and Leia wishing Chewbacca and Lando well, we look at the making of the movie, why it's so well-loved and unearth some



EMPIRE TRIVIA!

Discover little known secrets
about *The Empire Strikes Back*
on page 44!



little-known facts that you may not know.

We meet *Empire*'s director, Irvin Kershner, and his cast and crew, including the irrepressible Billy Dee Williams who lends a touch of suave to these very pages!

If you're making your way to Florida for Celebration V, have a fantastic time! If not, grab that *Empire* DVD off the shelf and relive the greatest sequel of all time!

May the Force be with you!

Jonathan Wilkins
Jonathan Wilkins, Editor

DOCKING BAY

STAR WARS: THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK

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"NO LUKE. I AM YOUR FATHER."—DARTH VADER, *STAR WARS: THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK*

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This issue, as well as THREE newsstand covers to collect, *Star Wars Insider* is also available with a coverline-free version for subscribers*, an exclusive Yoda cover at selected comic stores, AND a Han Solo in Carbonite cover — available only at Celebration V and San Diego Comic-Con!

*To get future issues coverline free, subscribe at www.bizanmagazines.com and get eight issues for just \$34.95!

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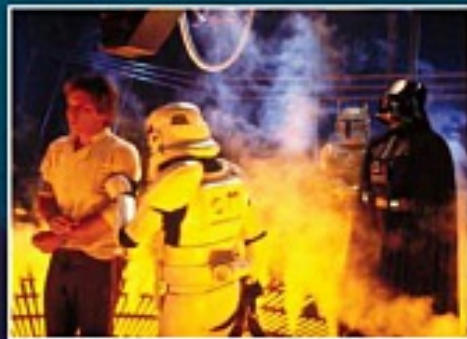
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LAUNCH

HAN SOLO RETURNS FOR EMPIRE CHARITY SCREENING

The last time the *Millennium Falcon's* crew of beloved scoundrels—Han Solo, Lando Calrissian, and Chewbacca—joined together for a good cause, they helped bring down an evil Empire. At a special 30th anniversary screening of *The Empire Strikes Back* in Hollywood this past May, this trio of rogues reunited for the first time in decades, their new mission devoted to children's health and pediatric treatment and research.

The Arclight Cinema in Los Angeles was the venue for a charity screening of Episode V that not only commemorated the film's 30th anniversary, but also raised over \$40,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The star-studded night marked a rare appearance by Harrison Ford at a *Star Wars* event, and he was

joined by fellow *Empire* cast members Peter Mayhew and Billy Dee Williams.

Also in attendance were Ewan McGregor, the cast and crew of *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*, and celebrity fans like Pete Wentz, Jon Favreau, and Christopher Nolan.

Although Ford has not done many interviews about his time as Han Solo, he did open up about his part in *Star Wars* during a Q&A session that followed the screening. "Well, I don't know if I understood it very well, and I'm not sure that I understand it yet," he said, regarding the universal success of *Star Wars*. "I think the mythology of it is what makes it work as much as anything else. I think George [Lucas] tapped into some psychic vein that makes the whole thing work."

Ford recounted the now-famous tale of how he was not the original choice for Han Solo, but instead lucked into the part. "I was unhappy with the kind of roles that were coming my way, so I was determined to find another way of making a living," Ford explained. "I had gone back to carpentry, and I was installing an elaborate portico entrance for Francis Coppola in his offices, and George came in one morning with Richard Dreyfuss for the first of the interviews for *Star Wars*. We said hello and chatted briefly, and then Fred Roos, who was George's casting director, asked me if I would do them the favor of reading with the



Trust him! Billy Dee Williams and Harrison Ford

Photo: Albert L. Ortega

prospective actors that they were testing for the part. I did that with no real expectation that I might be involved. After I read with probably 300 actors, they asked me if I wanted to play the part and I said, 'Sure.'"

Many of the most memorable lines in *Empire* come from Solo (never tell him the odds!), but although Ford has a reputation for having ad-libbed some of Han's best quotes, he resists any claims of ownership over them. When Solo is staring down a carbon-frozen fate, his unforgettable response to Princess Leia's



Harrison Ford and Peter Mayhew, reunited!

Photo: Albert L. Ortega



Ewan McGregor (Obi-Wan Kenobi) plays it cool!

Photo: Pablo Hsialgo

P A D



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The director of
The Empire Strikes Back interviewed!

IRVIN
KERSHNER

PAGE 30

From the icy plains
of Hoth to the top
of every collector's
wishlist

AT-AT ATTACK!



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REPORT BY PABLO HIDALGO



Photo: Albert L. Ortega

proclamation of love was not in the script, and instead was born that day on the set.

"Film is a collaborative process," said Ford, "and I was happy that I was able to make a small contribution. It didn't go down so well with George at the time. He would have been a lot happier with the scripted line which is, 'I love you too.' But I felt, and Kersh [director Irvin Kershner] agreed, that it was the opportunity for a more 'character-smelling' moment."

Ford and Kershner shot multiple responses from Solo, including the scripted response. "When Kersh presented his cut, he used the line, 'I know,' and George said, 'well that's gonna get a laugh. That's not good.' And Kersh and I both said it could be a good laugh at that moment. I remember being at that test screening in San Francisco sitting next to George—Kershner on the other side—and he went in predicting this was going to be a bad laugh, but I think the audience convinced him it was not so bad. But I take no ownership. If Kersh hadn't thought that it was a good idea, we

wouldn't have shot it. So there you are. It is a collaborative process."

That line and Solo's carbonite-encased fate which prompted three years of predictions (Would he live? Would he die?) cemented the character's status as legendary. Ford attributes Han's immense appeal to the character's well-voiced skepticism amid the spectacular events unfolding around him.

"I had a part to play that had a kind of a keystone effect amongst the callow youth and the wise old warrior and the princess," says Ford. "[Han] probably represented something close to the audience's sensibility because of his distance from the mythology, and because of his resistance to it. That was the luck of the part for me I thought."

Looking back at the era of *Empire*, an era when he worked on many timeless movies with directors like George Lucas, Steven Spielberg, Ridley Scott, and Francis Ford Coppola, Ford contrasted the significance of cinema compared to today. "There was such a strong audience for theatrical films," he says. "The innovations that came along which allowed you to see so much of what we see now at home weren't available and the movie theater was still a very strong part of our lives. I think that has a lot to do with it. I think there were a lot of wonderfully talented people that were involved. I was just glad to be there at the time."

EXPANDED

For more on the event, visit:
www.starwars.com/fans/events/esb30th_screening/index.html

UNIVERSE

BOUNTY HUNTERS RISE AGAIN ON DVD!



Star Wars: *The Clone Wars* The Complete Season Two is coming to DVD and High Definition Blu-ray disc on October 26 from Lucasfilm Ltd. and Warner Home Video. Featuring cutting-edge animation and special bonus materials, the comprehensive collection explores the farthest reaches of a galaxy far, far away with all-new adventures set against the spectacular backdrop of the *Star Wars* universe.

"Everything's improved since the first season—the stories, the animation, everything," says Supervising Director Dave Filoni. "It's bigger and better, and it's going to look great in high definition. We're all just so proud of the series, and I think it shows; we're bursting to share our production secrets, so the features are just full of fun insights from behind the scenes. As a fan, this is what I'd want."

EXPANDED

The following features will be included in the set:

Featurettes

Attack of the Zillo Beast
Magic of the Holocron
Return to Geonosis
Creating Mandalore

Also included is a 64-page production journal that includes early sketches, artist notes and concept art. Blu-ray owners get an exclusive bonus feature, The Jedi Temple Archives.

UNIVERSE

LAUNCHPAD

STAR WARS CELEBRATION V

MAIN EVENT

LUCAS - STEWART

Fans attending *Star Wars Celebration V* can look forward to **THE MAIN EVENT**—a live, on-stage interview with saga creator George Lucas hosted by *The Daily Show's* Jon Stewart.

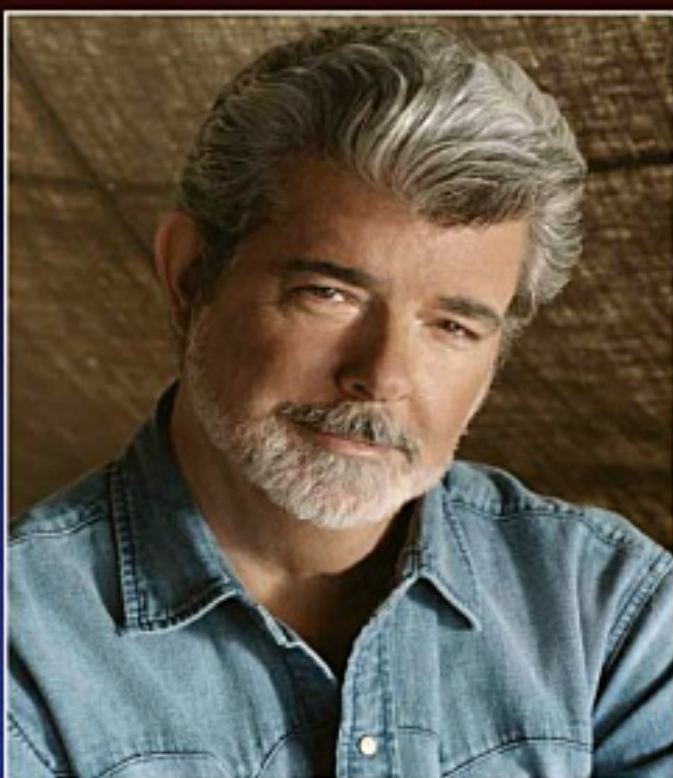
The hour-long, candid conversation will spark a discourse sure to shed light on the history of the *Star Wars* saga—from its past to its future, with insights about the many steps along the way.

Stewart brings a fan sensibility to the interview, aiming to focus on areas of interest to the many diverse and devoted groups that have helped *Star Wars* endure for more than 30 years. In addition to the dialogue between Lucas and Stewart, questions can be submitted through the official *Star Wars Celebration V* website: www.starwarscelebration.com

Additional CV highlights at the Orlando, FL convention August 12-15 include:

CELEBRITY GUESTS

Carrie Fisher (Princess Leia, Episodes IV-VI), Anthony Daniels (C-3PO, Episodes I-VI), Jeremy Bulloch (Boba Fett, Episodes V and VI), Peter Mayhew (Chewbacca, Episodes III-VI), Jake Lloyd (Anakin Skywalker, Episode II), Temuera Morrison (Jango Fett, Episode II), Daniel Logan (Boba Fett, Episode II, *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*), Ray Park (Darth Maul, Episode I), Nick Gillard (Stunt Coordinator, Episodes I-III) and Matthew Wood (General



Grievous, Episodes II and III, *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*). Celebration hosts include Jay Laga'aia (Captain Typho, Episode III), David Collins (LucasArts) and Pablo Hidalgo (Lucasfilm).

STAR WARS STORIES PROJECT

Fans will have the unique opportunity to become a part of the *Star Wars* universe by contributing to Lucasfilm's video archive.

STAR WARS CELEBRATION CHAPEL

Fans will be able to express their love for their special someone at the *Star Wars Celebration Chapel* with a "light side" or "dark side" ceremony officiated by your choice of characters from the *Star Wars* saga—and beyond!

STAR WARS LASER TAG

Team up with your family and friends to out-shoot Imperial stormtroopers in the live, action-packed arena of *Star Wars Laser Tag*, every day of the show.

FAMILY FUN

Star Wars Celebration V has a wide selection of events and activities for *Star Wars'* youngest fans—from arts & crafts tutorials and interactive games to the popular Jedi Training Academy!

ROBOT CHICKEN STAR WARS

Seth Green and Matt Senreich speak about their shared passion for the *Star Wars* saga, and how it led to the creation of the *Robot Chicken Star Wars* specials.

STAR WARS FASHION SHOW

Ashley Eckstein—the voice of Ahsoka Tano in *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*—hosts the first-ever fashion show celebrating the breadth and depth of clothing lines bringing *Star Wars* to the street.

CARTOON NETWORK FAMILY ROOM AND SCREENING ROOM

Cartoon Network presents an area designed for family fun—featuring activities and events, workshops, contests and screenings of select episodes of *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* and other Cartoon Network shows. The festivities culminate in *The Clone Wars Slumber Party!*

STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS

Go behind-the-scenes with cast and crew



LAST TOUR TO ENDOR

After more than two decades of interstellar travel, Disney's Star Tours attraction gets the ultimate send-off with Last Tour to Endor—an out-of-this-world party and first-of-its-kind entertainment experience including specially-themed intergalactic party zones, *Star Wars* shows, a Death Star Disco and much more. The evening will culminate with Symphony in the Stars—a spectacular *Star Wars* fireworks of the kind only Disney Parks can create.

of *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* with never-before-seen glimpses into the making of the hit show, and a sneak peek at what's to come in Season Three!

COSTUME CONTESTS

Star Wars costumers are invited to participate in exciting costume contests at *Star Wars Celebration V*. With four costume pageants—two for everyone and two specifically for kids—there are plenty of chances to model intergalactic finery.

STAR WARS ART SHOW

More than 40 amazing artists present their unique interpretations of that “galaxy far, far away.”

STAR WARS VIDEO GAME UNIVERSE

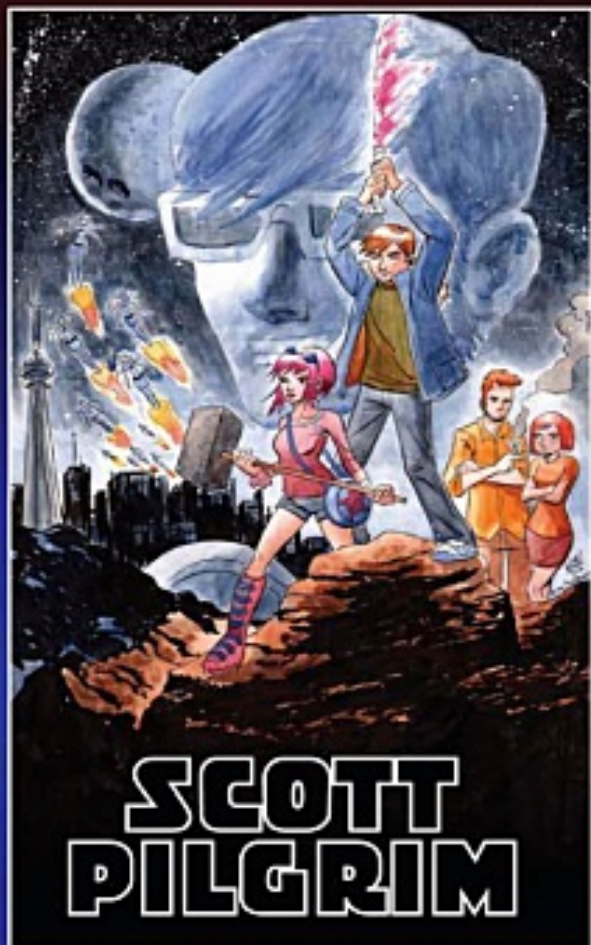
Nearly every *Star Wars* game ever created will be playable for the full duration of Celebration V.



Jon Stewart

SCOTT PILGRIM VS. THE GALAXY?

The comic book series *Scott Pilgrim* by Bryan Lee O'Malley and its film *Scott Pilgrim Vs. The World*, directed by *Shaun of the Dead* director Edgar Wright, has legions of fans for good reason. The story of Scott Pilgrim features lovable sidekicks, epic battles and a girl worth fighting for—so it was only a matter of time before there was a Scott Pilgrim/*Star Wars* mash-up. Check out this poster by comic book artist Joe Bowen!



AT-AT WEDDING CAKE

Nothing says “I do” like an Imperial-themed wedding cake! *Star Wars* fan and chef Rebecca Dudeiros asked her talented pastry chef friend Teresa Ulrich to create this one-of-a-kind Hoth-tastic AT-AT wedding cake, complete with Ewok cupcakes.



Photos: Justin Winokur

HOW THE EMPIRE STRUCK WAY BACK!

Everyone knows that filmmaker George Lucas was influenced by the old sci-fi serials of his childhood when he made the *Star Wars* films. But now you can see how much those movies really made their mark with a "premake" tribute to *The Empire Strikes Back* using old film footage by talented fan Ivan Guerrero. He discussed the process with *Insider*.



What inspired you to remake a trailer to *The Empire Strikes Back* as a movie from the 1950s?

I decided to tackle *Empire*, instead of *A New Hope*, because it seemed to pretty well match up with the clips I was stumbling upon. The *Flash Gordon* serials had a lot of different "themed" planets, which there was no shortage of in *Empire*. When I began actually working on the trailer, I had no idea it was going to coincide with the 30th anniversary. That was just a happy coincidence.

How did you decide which clips to use for it?

I started off by making a list of shots or scenes that people commonly associate with the film, and from there I tried to work backwards. I realize, especially in the case of *Empire*, that people already have a complete, vivid image of what the film looks like in their heads. All I needed to do was find films with elements that suggested a match to this the larger image.

For "ESB 1950," I spent a good four to five months just researching films that influenced the original trilogy in terms of plot, characters, costumes, locations, and even the soundtrack.

In some ways, I feel I also got a little bit of insight into George Lucas' vision and perspective behind many of his movies. The experience allowed me to understand some of the genre influences, especially the sci-fi serials, which I never had the benefit of, growing up.

What are some of your favorite clips that you used? I wish I could have used more *Flash Gordon* in there, but I felt if I did, it would have

felt less like the 1950s and more like the 1930s. I was pretty fond of using clips involving Darth Vader. Two movies were a perfect match too: *The Fighting Devil Dogs* and *Devil Girl from Mars*.

You've done other "premake" trailers for other iconic films like *Raiders of the Lost Ark* and *Ghostbusters*. What compels you to make these awesome tributes? Early last year I had some cousins over at my house for a movie marathon. While they were open to watching more obscure films from my library, they had two conditions of what not to watch. They were not interested in watching anything shot in black and white or made before the 1980s. This was something that bothered me.

The more I thought about it, the more I realized that this bias against older films was very common for younger audiences.



STAR WARS BAG PUPPETS AND R2 BUILDERS AT MAKER FAIRE

Every year robot builders, inventors, and crafters gather for a giant celebration of science geekery called Maker Faire. You can't have a robot gathering without the R2-D2 Builders Group showing up to inspire *Star Wars* fans of all ages to make their own astromech sidekick.

The astromechs were out in full force spinning, whirring and beeping at the crowd that constantly followed the R2 units or came to visit them in the robot area of the fair.

Fans attending this year's



Bay Area Maker Faire also made their favorite *Star Wars* characters as bag puppets. Bonnie Burton, *Star Wars* author and crafts guru at starwars.com, taught fans of all ages how to make Yoda and Admiral Ackbar, that is, Admiral Sackbar puppets.

"Fans are a creative bunch, so we saw lots of original creature puppets as well as a dead tauntaun (complete with guts), Salacious Crumb,



Princess Leia with pink hair, and more," Burton says.

Past *Star Wars* crafts at Maker Faire have included Yoda dolls and puppets, *Star Wars* marble magnets, and Ewok sock puppets.



PHOTOS: BONNIE BURTON

EXPANDED

For more info about Maker Faire: www.makerfaire.com

UNIVERSE



They are not open to experiencing these great old stories because they perceive the material as dated, slower-paced and irrelevant. The premake trailers are my way of repackaging these magnificent old films, actors, and themes, to show people how modern cinema is directly influenced by the past.

I post a recipe for the trailers because I really want people to rediscover, or in most cases discover, these old films and experience them on their own.



EXPANDED

You can see the tribute here:
<http://tinyurl.com/empirepremake>
 As well as a frame-by-frame
 comparison here:
<http://tinyurl.com/premakeframebyframe>

UNIVERSE

Star Wars Mimobots are ultra-cool little USB solutions that stand just over 2" tall. With 2GB in capacity, they are ideal for storing, safeguarding and moving all kinds of data—from Death Star plans and Rebel base schematics to more mundane

things such as spreadsheets, music files and photos of Princess Leia in that golden metal bikini!

Each Mimobot is preloaded with a few nuggets of exclusive *Star Wars* content such as wallpapers, avatars, videos and soundbites that can be

STAR TWEETS!

Overheard on Twitter....

I want to carry Yoda around on my back, like Luke did on Dagobah, & feed him Fruit Roll Ups and dress him up like a little sailor sometimes.—Liz Lee (@MyLifeAsLiz_Liz) from MTV's *My Life As Liz*

Sitting in front of Harrison Ford as he watched *Empire Strikes Back*. He laughed at the "I know" line.—Paul Scheer (@paulscheer), comedian

I sign more lightsabers & Magic cards than any other rapper, fer sure.—rapper MC Chris (@mcchris)

Just realized Beiber stole his haircut from my son. That little punk.—@DarthVader

Just made two different *Star Wars* references while trying to help with lyrics. Bottom line: nobody was impressed.—Joseph Trohman (@trohman), Fall Out Boy

I love being on Twitter whenever Spike plays *Return of the Jedi*, because everyone always tweets "IT'S A TRAP!" at the same time.—Rachel Dick (@rachel_dick)



MIMOBOT GIVEAWAY!

transferred to your home PC, then erased.

Plus, when you remove the helmet from the stormtrooper Mimobot there is a 50/50 chance that the face will be either that of Luke or Han in disguise from Episode IV!

WIN MEMORY!

We have four of these little wonders to give away courtesy of firebox.com. Just email or write to the address on page three.



STAR WARS

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2010

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EDITORIAL

Editor: Jonathan Wilkins
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 Editorial Assistant: Mark McKenzie-Ray



LUCASFILM

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 Lucasfilm Editor: Frank Parisi
 Director of Content Management and Fan Relations: Steve Sansweet
 Art Director: Troy Alders
 Bartha Tracks: Mary Franklin

CONTRIBUTORS

Mark Newbold, James Burns, Daniel Wallace, Scott Chernoff, Leandri Chase, Chris Sebala, Rick Lippert, Bonnie Burton, Paolo Hidalgo

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INTERROGATION DROID!



SUAVE, STYLISH AND ALWAYS READY TO CHARM THE LADIES! HOW WILL **BILLY DEE WILLIAMS** FARE AGAINST *STAR WARS INSIDER'S* INTERROGATION DROID? WORDS: CHRIS SPITALE



What's Lando's greatest asset?

His unparalleled charm, of course! That was one of the things that I thought was very important to that character.



Lando's smile is bigger than:

a) A Cloud City exhaust port, b) Jabba the Hutt, or c) Boba Fett's reputation.

The Milky Way!

When Lando owned the Millennium Falcon, did he trick out his ride?

He didn't need to. He owned something that was comparable to Las

Vegas. I think he was more concerned with the mechanics of the *Falcon*.

What drink did Lando most frequently sip while playing sabacc?

Colt 45! [For years, Williams was the commercial spokesman for the brand.]

Do you think Lando ever toyed with the idea of leaving Han in carbonite so he could make a move on Leia?

Oh, he wouldn't have to do that to make a move on Leia!

He'd just rely on his own ability to pull a girl in.

Above: The cape, the cards, and the Colt 45!
Left: Pure Cool.



NAME: BILLY DEE WILLIAMS

ALIAS: LANDO CALRISSIAN

FIRST APPEARANCE

Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back

What were some of Lando's most successful pick-up lines?

It's kind of a spontaneous thing. Depending on the situation, who the person is, and how he's affected by that person. I like to compliment people, especially if there's something very interesting about the person. I'm always quite open about how I view them.

Who was a better co-pilot for Lando in the Falcon—Chewbacca or Nien Nunb?

Nien Nunb. Chewbacca was much more loyal to Han Solo, so there was always that possibility of tension.

So who's the bigger ladies man: Lando Calrissian or Billy Dee Williams?

Oh, Lando Calrissian! I've been more of a ladies man in my time. Maybe it's a tie! 🍷

More from the legendary Billy Dee Williams on page 66!



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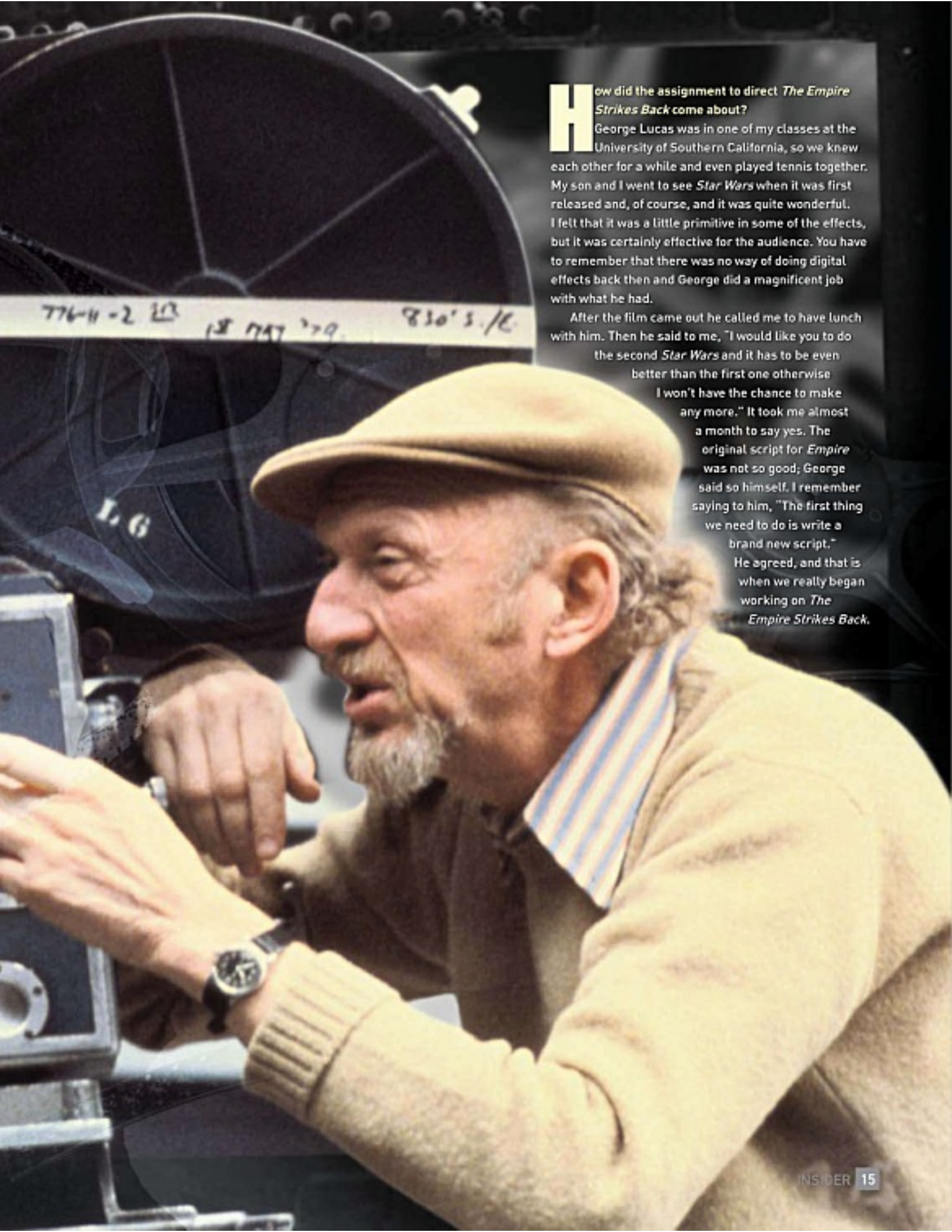
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EMPIRE BUILDER

STAR WARS INSIDER CATCHES UP WITH THE IRVIN KERSHNER, THE DIRECTOR OF *THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK*, TO TALK ABOUT HIS MEMORIES OF CALLING THE SHOTS ON THE DARKEST EPISODE OF THE ORIGINAL TRILOGY. WORDS: CALUM WADDELL



How did the assignment to direct *The Empire Strikes Back* come about?

George Lucas was in one of my classes at the University of Southern California, so we knew each other for a while and even played tennis together. My son and I went to see *Star Wars* when it was first released and, of course, and it was quite wonderful. I felt that it was a little primitive in some of the effects, but it was certainly effective for the audience. You have to remember that there was no way of doing digital effects back then and George did a magnificent job with what he had.

After the film came out he called me to have lunch with him. Then he said to me, "I would like you to do the second *Star Wars* and it has to be even better than the first one otherwise

I won't have the chance to make any more." It took me almost a month to say yes. The original script for *Empire* was not so good; George said so himself. I remember saying to him, "The first thing we need to do is write a brand new script."

He agreed, and that is when we really began working on *The Empire Strikes Back*.

What was it like shooting the movie in England?

Shooting in England was a pleasure. The country is very dear to me because I was stationed in the UK for two-and-a-half years during the Second World War when I was a flight engineer. I worked on *Empire* for two years and the British crews were just terrific. When you shoot in Hollywood you have a lot of problems. There are usually a great many fingers in the pie and a lot of people who have never made a film sending you notes all the time about what to do and what not to do. I never had that when I did *Empire*. I got to do all of the things that I wanted and had the freedom to go in my own way. That, in my opinion, is why George Lucas is such a great producer. He is an incredibly talented person and a fantastic businessman. He knows how to get the most out of the situation, and the fact that he has done an

entire series of *Star Wars* films is just amazing.

Do you have any stories of malfunctioning special effects?
Of course! For instance R2-D2—oh dear! We had a bunch of them made and one was just a tin can that could be pulled along. Another one had fast motors and another had slow

motors, and one had Kenny Baker inside. They were all designed for different scenes. Everything had to be rehearsed the night before so that when we went to shoot we could count on things working. The very first day of shooting on the set was with R2-D2. I said, "I want the fast one, and I want his head to turn." The technicians told



Producer Gary Kurtz, George Lucas and Irvin Kershner get stuck in the mud on the Dagobah set.



Mark Hamill, R2-D2 and Kershner discuss a scene.



Hey! That guy isn't a bounty hunter, but we bet he knows where Han Solo is!

me that they would make sure it performed. So the next day here we were with the actors, ready to shoot, and R2-D2 is racing along. He comes to a stop and some ice falls on his head. Well I had the box in my hand that guided him and I said "action," pushed the lever forward, and he got about two feet before stopping and wiggling back and forth. The special effects guys jumped in there and 10 minutes later they said he would definitely work. So what happens? He wiggles again after about two feet and comes to a dead stop! They came to me after that and told me the truth: "Yesterday when we tried him out it was on a flat floor and today we are filming on plastic,"—the plastic was supposed to simulate ice. Those little wheels didn't work on plastic. So everything was pretty much like that—it was a very difficult shoot, but George told me before I left for England, "Don't count on anything working." So I said, "Okay, I will improvise, which I did—all through the film!" For example, the creatures [mynocks] that were flopping around in the scene where Han and Leia

land on the asteroid—they were just pieces of plastic on a line that was being held by fishing poles. They were literally moved around with fishing poles! Compared to today, they were certainly not great special effects!

How did you plan to top *Star Wars*?

I told George that I was going to concentrate on the characters. I said to him, "With the special effects we

will do the best we can, but the characters will make this film." So we did rehearsals at night and during the day with my actors, and we had them all primed. Also, I decided to make the film a little darker than the first one. The original was true to the comic strip essence, but I wanted to make *Empire* a little darker and more truthful so that when we did the third one it could have



Production designer Norman Reynolds shows Kershner his plans for *Empire*



Making magic: Makeup legend Stuart Freeborn and Lucas collaborate on the creation of Yoda.



Lucas directs the Rebels as they beat a retreat!

something to build on. We didn't know back then if George would direct *Return of the Jedi* or if I would do it or someone else. The difficulty with the film was that it was the second part of a three-act play and, as the second act, you have to build characters but the script starts off with this huge action scene. Well, where do you go from there? How do you top it? You don't—you top it with individual acting, characterization, and conflict on a personal level. That is what

I concentrated on because I did not have as big a climax at the end. So I always kept in mind that this was an unfinished story—that it could continue and this was not easy to do because you want the audience to feel that it can continue, that they have not been cheated.

One of the most memorable parts in *The Empire Strikes Back* is when Luke travels to Dagobah to visit Yoda. Was it a tough set to work on? All of the scenes on Dagobah were

difficult. We needed the water to be about three-and-a-half to four feet deep—and it had to be controlled on the set. We had a bunch of frogmen underneath the muddy water who had to pull Luke's ship down. It was so large that once it was taken off its hinges and sunk it had to be brought right back up again for the next take. Thankfully, the water was so muddy you could never see anyone underneath it, but people were always lying down there. I remember being asked at the beginning of that sequence if it was a good idea to clean the water and I told them to keep it dirty because otherwise it would be impossible to hide anything!

After *The Empire Strikes Back* you directed *Never Say Never Again* and *Robocop 2*. Did you feel more confident dealing with special effects? Yes, I did, although I was not out there looking for more special effects films. What happened was that after *Empire* and *Never Say Never Again* I took a break to try and get my own project made.

THE FILMS OF IRVIN KERSHNER

<i>Stakeout on Dope Street</i>	1958
<i>The Young Captives</i>	1958
<i>The Hoodlum Priest</i>	1961
<i>A Face in the Rain</i>	1963
<i>The Luck of Ginger Coffey</i>	1964
<i>A Fine Madness</i>	1966
<i>The Flim-Flam Man</i>	1967
<i>Loving</i>	1970
<i>Up the Sandbox</i>	1972
<i>S*P*Y*S</i>	1974
<i>The Return of a Man Called Horse</i>	1976
<i>Eyes of Laura Mars</i>	1978
<i>Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back</i>	1980
<i>Never Say Never Again</i>	1983
<i>Robocop 2</i>	1990

I had the script and the locations all ready, but I could not get the money together, despite the success of these two movies! That took me out of the business for about six years, and if you are a director and you do not make a movie for that length of time it is not good! So I took on *Robocop 2* and I did the pilot episode of *SeaQuest DSX* for Steven Spielberg, but it was not a conscious decision to do more big sci-fi things! In fact, I turned down some sci-fi scripts during this period because they were not very interesting to me. I figured, "I have already done some good films in this genre and unless I get another really amazing screenplay handed to me I do not want to do something else." However, I just wrote a new script—a children's fairy tale—and that is going to use extensive special effects, both on the set and digital. I feel that, even now, I could not do that sort of thing without my experience on *Empire*.



Harrison Ford practices his finger pointing!



The cast, joined by producer Gary Kurtz, rehearse with Kersh.



The strains of *Empire's* tough shooting schedule begin to show on Darth Vader!

Nowadays, with all the information available about special effects, it is harder and harder to surprise an audience. Do you think this is a good or a bad thing?

Personally speaking, I don't like letting out any trade secrets. It is like when you see a magician on the stage. They never tell you how they do anything, but nowadays the audience is told how these things are done on DVDs and in books and I think that is a huge mistake! I believe that some things should never be revealed.

Out of all the movies that you have made do you have a favorite?

Well I am very proud of *The Empire Strikes Back*, I have to tell you that. Every week in the mail I get things sent to me from all across the world: South Africa to Toronto, Geneva to Tokyo—and everywhere else you can think of—asking me to sign autographs. I tend to be sent pictures of me on the set. It is amazing that people collect these. Here we are, talking about *Empire*, and it's 30 years later! I still sign *Star Wars* memorabilia, and I am



The three directors: Kershner, George Lucas, and *Return of the Jedi's* Richard Marquand

very proud of that part of my life. Although a big part of that pride is because I managed to get through it in one piece! However, I am still not sure I can single *Empire* out above everything else. I guess that question is like asking me if I have a favorite child. My answer to that would be: no because I love them all and I cannot pick one over the others. Whenever I finish a film I always feel as if I could start shooting it all over again and *Empire* was no different, but you just do your best and walk away. ☺



Kershner talks Carrie Fisher through a scene.

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MY STAR WARS

ACTOR MILO VENTIMIGLIA HAS PLAYED EVERYTHING FROM THE COMPLEX DO-GOODER PETER PETRELLI ON *HEROES* TO A DOCTOR ON THE FAST TRACK WHO TAKES A DETOUR TO THE DARK SIDE IN *PATHOLOGY*. HIS LOVE FOR *STAR WARS* IS NO SECRET. HIS MSN WEB SHOW *ULTRADOME* OFTEN FEATURES SHOUT-OUTS TO JEDI MASTERS AND HAN SOLO. HE'S RECENTLY BEEN HONORED AS A FRIEND OF THE 501ST LEGION. WORDS: BONNIE BURTON

THE STAR WARS SAGA CONTINUES



Of all the *Star Wars* films, which is your favorite?

The Empire Strikes Back. Just for the message of the Force. Simple as that.

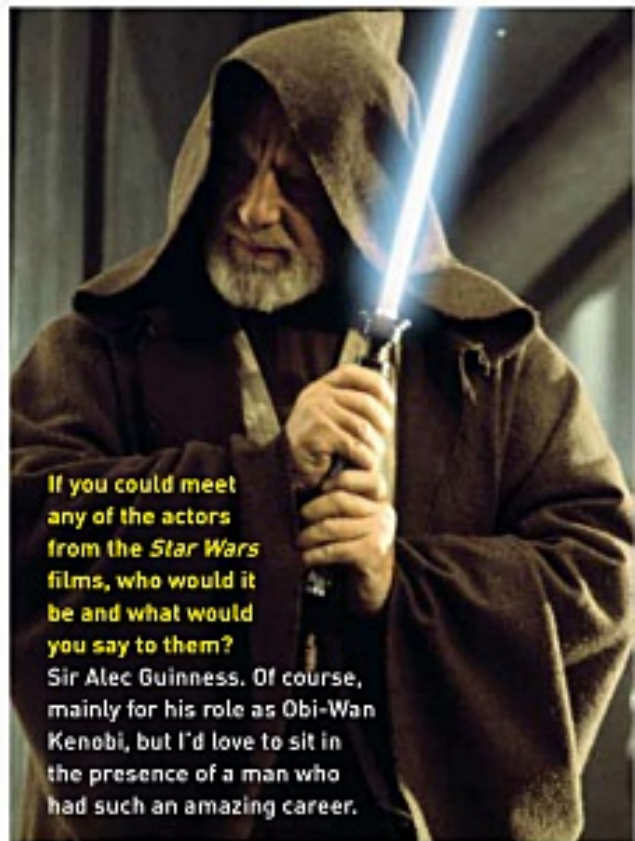
If you were a Jedi, what color would you want your lightsaber to be?

Can I get a black lightsaber? Everybody picks these eclectic colors, but I think a black lightsaber would be awesome. It fits somewhere outside of the Jedi and Sith, in its own league.



Which
Star Wars toy
do you
wish you
had as a kid?

The *Millennium Falcon*. A friend of mine had it, and I didn't. I'd love to have that now.



If you could meet
any of the actors
from the *Star Wars*
films, who would it
be and what would
you say to them?

Sir Alec Guinness. Of course, mainly for his role as Obi-Wan Kenobi, but I'd love to sit in the presence of a man who had such an amazing career.



If you could ask George Lucas any question, what would it be?

I'm sure everything has been asked so, "What'd you have for breakfast?" and "Can I live at Skywalker Ranch?"

What is your favorite scene from the *Star Wars* films?

Yoda training Luke in the Dagobah system. I like the spiritual context of what Yoda says to Luke.

LUKE: Master, moving stones around is one thing, this is totally different!

YODA: No, only different in your mind. You must unlearn what you have learned.



How have the *Star Wars* films influenced you as an actor?

They have allowed me to tap into the excitement I had as a kid every time I saw one of the movies, played with one of the toys, or dreamed of becoming a Jedi Knight.



Why will you always be a *Star Wars* fan?

It's my childhood; it's part of what raised me. Playing with my *Star Wars* toys and making explosion noises, and Chewie roars, and TIE fighter blasts, and Darth Vader breaths made me not afraid to be creative. The Force was always with me.



If you could do a *Star Wars* TV show that gave the back-story of one of the more obscure characters who would it be?

Greedo! I want to know his history and why he's really after Han Solo. I want to know about his family life. I imagine he's a mid-level mobster with a bad back.



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The EMPIRE LO



What is your favorite part of *The Empire Strikes Back*?
Dave Filoni, Supervising Director:
It's very hard to pick, but I think

it'd have to be the attack on Echo Base. It's probably one of the few times the Empire was really successful in defeating the Rebels outright. General Veers must be the most highly decorated guy out there!

The walkers grabbed my attention as a kid. Like a lot of little boys, I loved dinosaurs. We had Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh, and it had a T-Rex a long time before anybody else, and the walkers to me looked like giant dinosaurs. I thought that was the coolest thing I'd ever seen.



By Pablo Hidalgo

EVERYONE HAS HIS OR HER FAVORITE MOMENTS FROM EPISODE V, AND WE ALL CARRY OUR OWN UNIQUE PERSPECTIVES ON WHAT MAKES THE *EMPIRE STRIKES BACK* SO MEMORABLE. THIS INCLUDES THE TALENTED PEOPLE BEHIND THE CURRENT INCARNATION OF THE ONGOING STAR WARS SAGA, *STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS*.

OKS BACK



Catherine Taber, Padmé Amidala:

Yoda, the AT-ATs, being scared by the wampa! There's so many. I remember really liking the outfits on Hoth. I have some Hoth-ish boots now because of it.



James Arnold Taylor, Obi-Wan Kenobi:

I remember how cool the *Millennium Falcon* was. I remember when they

cut the tauntaun open. I was blown away thinking, "Star Wars was amazing, but this is beyond anything I have ever seen!" It was the perfect movie experience.

My favorite Han and Leia moment is when they're walking down the hall on Hoth, and he's leaving, and they're having their argument. I love that acting and the reality of that moment within this universe. You don't only see them doing just the cool things in space. It's also the real life stuff that's going on. I love the subtlety of the moment.



Matthew Wood, Supervising Sound Editor, Voice of General Grievous:

Seeing *The Empire Strikes Back* when I was eight was one of the first times I can remember feeling the progression of time as a child. Watching the characters we loved from *A New Hope* grow and struggle against adversity in that film made me believe those characters had been out there for the last three years fighting the Empire. No other movie sequel has ever come close to the technical achievements, dramatic story, and overall excitement that *Empire* had.



Tom Kane, Yoda: One of my clearest memories was the dramatic difference in the way the audience was acting. I saw *Star Wars* opening night in 1977, and no one had any idea what they were in for. That audience was a

typical "talking quietly, munching popcorn, sipping soda" group. But not at the opening night of *Empire*! That night the theater was electrified. People were in costume, battling in the aisles with their homemade lightsabers, talking about *nothing* but *Star Wars*. After the previews, when the theater went dark... well, the roar of the crowd rivaled any THX sound effect in the movie!





Matt Lanter, Anakin

Skywalker: There are so many memorable things from *Empire*, but I guess what sticks out is just the image of the blinding white ice planet of Hoth. It just really set the tone of the Rebels hiding away from the Empire.



David Acord, Sound Designer:

There are loads of great moments in *Empire*, but one that sticks out the most to me is probably the climactic lightsaber duel between Luke and Vader. The misty, contrasting blue and orange

lighting and the eerie ambient sounds made the carbon-freezing chamber such a creepy environment. Vader was so frightening in those scenes because he was so calculating and so relentless.



If you could take on the vocal role of anyone in *Empire*, who would it be?

Lanter: Well, I'm a huge Han Solo fan.

Taylor: I think I'd be the tauntaun. No, honestly, I would have loved doing the Emperor. It was before we really knew him. I loved that character because there was so much mystery behind him.

Wood: Well, aside from my stellar performance as a Rebel pilot in the snowspeeder launch sequence who yells "Mount the tow cable!" [audible in the 2004 DVD version of *Empire*], to play Yoda, loved I would have.

Acord: Darth Vader. There is no way I could fill James Earl Jones' shoes, but that character is all about the vocal performance.





Tom, what advice would Admiral Yularen have given to the ill-fated Imperial officers that served under Darth Vader?

Kane: To remember that even though their government has turned to the dark side, it doesn't mean that they have to. That it is their duty to do what they can to protect the citizens as much as possible from the evil of the Empire. I would like to think Yularen and many of the other senior officers who served loyally in the Republic were perhaps working behind the scenes to thwart Vader and the Emperor. Maybe that's why so many admirals made so many serious "mistakes." Those "mistakes" almost always led to their deaths when Vader found out, but they did slow down Vader's plans, didn't they?

Do you look at Vader differently in *Empire* now that you've gotten to know Anakin so well in *The Clone Wars*?

Lanter: Yes, I think so. I see him with more compassion, and hopefully that's what *The Clone Wars* is doing for this *Star Wars* audience. His fall is so much more tragic now that we know he was actually a good guy once.

Taylor: I look at all the characters differently thanks to the prequels and *The Clone Wars*. I look at Vader now not just as this faceless, dark bad guy. I look at him as all of us. I think he is a great example of who we all are as people in that we constantly try to do the right thing, but our emotions and our lives get in the way of reality, and we stop looking at the truth and look to ourselves to try and fix things. 🐼

From a sound design point of view, what stands out the most from *Empire*?

Acord: From the ambiances to the effects to the score, *Empire* is heavy. You can feel the weight in every scene. It's very intense.

Wood: I loved the carbon-freezing chamber ambiance. During one of my first jobs at Skywalker Sound, I put up the original 1/4" reels of the sound effects Ben Burtt designed for those scenes, closed my eyes and felt like I was there. I also love the snowspeeder and AT-AT battle on Hoth. There were a few moments in that film where the audio track was only driven by the sound effects, and they hold up as well as the John Williams score.

Cat, do you think Padmé would have been charmed by Lando Calrissian?

Taber: I think she would have been charmed initially, but once he betrayed them, I'm pretty sure she would have punched him in the face!



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AT-AT ATTACK!

DISCOVER WHY AT-AT'S ARE EVERY COLLECTOR'S FOUR-LEGGED FRIEND! WORDS & PICTURES GUS LOPEZ

Ever since the All Terrain Armored Transport vehicles first stomped over the horizon of Hoth, *Star Wars* fans have been crazy about these walking tanks, represented in various collectibles over the years. Upon the release of *The Empire Strikes Back*, Kenner led the pack with an action figure version of the AT-AT vehicle with movable legs, electronic light-up chin guns, and compartments for troops to lead their attack on Hoth. They later reissued the toy in *Return of the Jedi* packaging with an Endor setting on the box.

1) Although Kenner attempted to issue toys scaled to the action figures, they frequently needed to reduce the scale on the larger vehicles and playsets due to production

costs at the time. For that reason, the original AT-AT toy was not completely proportioned to the on-screen likeness, but was a careful balance of price point and playability.

2) Kenner produced an AT-AT coin for its highly coveted Power of the Force promotion. The coin was originally planned as an action figure premium for Imperial characters such as the AT-AT Commander, but the line was cancelled before the coin appeared on card. As a result, the AT-AT coin

was only available through a rare mail-away offer. To truly drive collectors crazy, there were two versions of the AT-AT coin, the "more common" one indicating that AT-ATs were "manned by IMPERIAL FIGHTERS" and the extremely rare version referring to a "Highly-trained armored fighter."

3) Even rarer than the Power of the Force AT-AT coins are the one-of-a-kind prototypes used to produce the actual coins. The coins were first sculpted in plaster at six times the actual scale of the finished product. Then various stages of positive and negative image hard copies were made to create a tooling master for the coin, before the coin's image was reduced with a pantograph machine to cut the coin hobs and dies in actual scale.





4) During the release of *Empire*, LED electronic games were being sold by the millions by Kenner's competitors, Mattel and Coleco. Kenner considered making *Star Wars* themed handheld electronic games based on the events from *The Empire Strikes Back*. One concept was a Hoth Battle game with the viewpoint from a snowspeeder pilot looking down on his AT-AT target. The games were never produced but artwork was used in the early stages of designing the concept.

5) Since the mid-1990s, Hallmark has issued new *Star Wars* Keepsake ornaments for each holiday season. In 2006, Hallmark created a detailed AT-AT ornament walking across the surface of Hoth with a snowspeeder encircling it to attempt to take it down. Like some of the other elaborate Hallmark ornaments, this one is battery powered to play movie sounds.

6) Possibly the cleverest AT-AT product was the Hoth snow globe. The miniature inside the globe shows the Hoth battlefield with a lone AT-AT and

circling snowspeeder, and shaking the globe adds snow into the scene. This ultra cute snow globe also plays the *Star Wars* theme.

7) The Industrial Light & Magic crew that created the special effects for *The Empire Strikes Back* included

the AT-AT for one of its internal T-shirts. The concept was a wind-up AT-AT that had fallen in the snow. The ILM crew worked countless hours animating the motion of the AT-AT walkers after first studying the steps of different four-legged animals. Not a single detail was left out in the sequences, and ILM even crafted a large AT-AT footprint stamper to create footprints in the artificial snow for the realistic effects shots. Also represented is an actual AT-AT chin gun used on one of the special effects models from the film.

8) For those who crave a screen-accurate AT-AT model in their



home, the authentically detailed AT-AT replica prop sold by Master Replicas is an exact likeness of the models used by ILM for *The Empire Strikes Back*. Each of these models was painted in precise detail to give a weathered "lived-in" look. Master

Replicas produced two versions of the AT-AT prop replica model, the first version on mirrored base with an acrylic case, and the "Signature Edition" version on a Hoth snowscape with downed snowspeeder. Each Signature Edition AT-AT is signed by Phil Tippet, one of the animators involved in bringing the AT-ATs to life on screen. 🤖



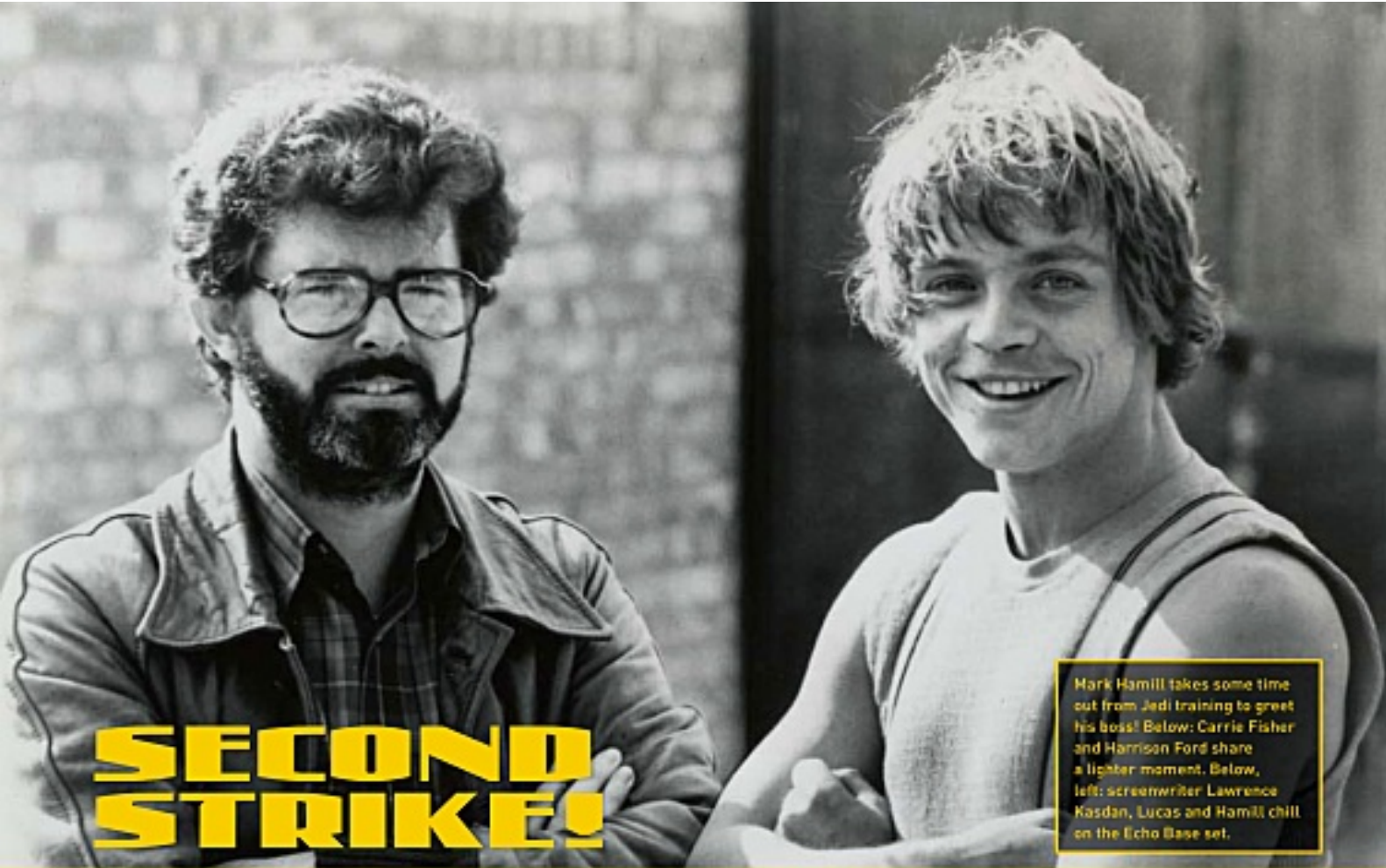




IN THEIR OWN WORDS

MAKING *THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK*

THE CAST AND CREW RECALL THE STRUGGLES AND
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Mark Hamill takes some time out from Jedi training to greet his boss! Below: Carrie Fisher and Harrison Ford share a lighter moment. Below, left: screenwriter Lawrence Kasdan, Lucas and Hamill chill on the Echo Base set.

GEORGE LUCAS INTERVIEWED IN 1980

The differences between *Star Wars* and *Empire*

Empire is a very different film to *Star Wars*. It's a rather sad film, more of a tragedy than a comedy. As the second part of this trilogy it compares with the second act in a play. Everything goes wrong in the second act, and then everything is



resolved in the third and final act. In my opinion, *Empire* is a better film than the first one.

Why he didn't direct *Empire*

I've never really enjoyed directing. So I have more or less retired from directing. I felt that if I directed *Empire* I'd have to direct the next one, and the one after that, and so on for the rest of my life. Being an executive producer is a much

easier job than directing.

I generally oversee the production and, although I have less control over specific things, I find I can live a much saner life than as a director!

How involved he was on *Empire*

I would say that John Williams had the most autonomy since I don't know that much about music. I was able to make some suggestions about what



I thought would work and what wouldn't, and found him to be very receptive to making changes. With Kershner I offered some suggestions, but he was generally on his own to make the film as he saw fit. With the first writer, Leigh Brackett, things were a little different. I gave her a very detailed story and from that she wrote the first draft of the screenplay. Unfortunately, she died soon after the draft was completed. I did several more drafts before we found another screenwriter, Lawrence Kasdan. His job was to clean up the script and put on the finishing touches.

Editing *Empire*

There are always changes that occur during the editing process, changes that the cast wouldn't be informed of. But we didn't make any drastic alterations. Obviously, some scenes were cut down and things were lost, but no scenes were cut out completely.



MAKING IT WORK

ROBERT WATTS, ASSOCIATE PRODUCER
INTERVIEWED IN 2008

Getting it right

The important thing when we approached *Empire* was to make it clear that we hadn't got more money than sense, because of the previous film. We did go a little over schedule and budget but, of the three, it's probably the best.

HOWIE WEED, SPECIAL EFFECTS TECHNICIAN/WAMPA
INTERVIEWED IN 2008

Having fun on the Special Edition set Part of the culture of working on a set is playing a few pranks. *Star Wars* was no exception. I recall a particularly evil prank that was played on me by a co-worker.



The wampa suit was half built, with a foam rubber body and a mechanical mask I could fit it onto my head with a cranking mechanism. We got word in the shop that a group from the *Star Wars* production office wanted to take a look at our progress, so I quickly jumped into the suit. We locked the mask down tightly onto my head so it look solid with my movements. What I didn't know was that someone had placed a sardine in my mask—a nice ripe one that smelled pretty horrid! I took a couple breaths and started shaking my head trying to figure out what that smell was. Then the production team walked in. I could see their feet line up in front of me

through the eye holes in the mask, so I went into character. I walked around in the suit, doing the best show-and-tell I could while the smell got stronger. Eventually we got the thumbs up and the production team left. As soon as my mask came off I saw that everyone was laughing hysterically!



THE DROIDS WHO DEFIED THE EMPIRE!

ANTHONY DANIELS, C-3PO INTERVIEWED IN 1980

Making the movie

We had a new director, Irvin Kershner, who, I think, finds it very easy to communicate with the actors. He is very excitable. Also, the shooting schedule was a bit longer for this movie. The first film shot for fifteen weeks, while this one shot for eighteen weeks, part of that time in Norway. They didn't take me to Norway because the 3PO costume would literally freeze up in that kind of cold.



Above: Anthony Daniels. Below: Threepio and friend!

This time was better because people knew they were back on some sort of winner with *The Empire Strikes Back*. You only had to look at the script to see that it was very, very good. Most times watching a scene in the studio is very dull. But there were some

scenes where people were actually crowding in to watch. There was definitely an air of excitement about this project.

Getting the best lines

There are times when I didn't know how some of the others could say their lines with a straight face. If I have a bad line I can hide behind the mask. I remember particularly the line, "Listen to them R2. They're dying and it's all my fault." Even with the mask on I cringed.

But the only way to do it is over the top, to ham it up, and I quite like the way it came out.

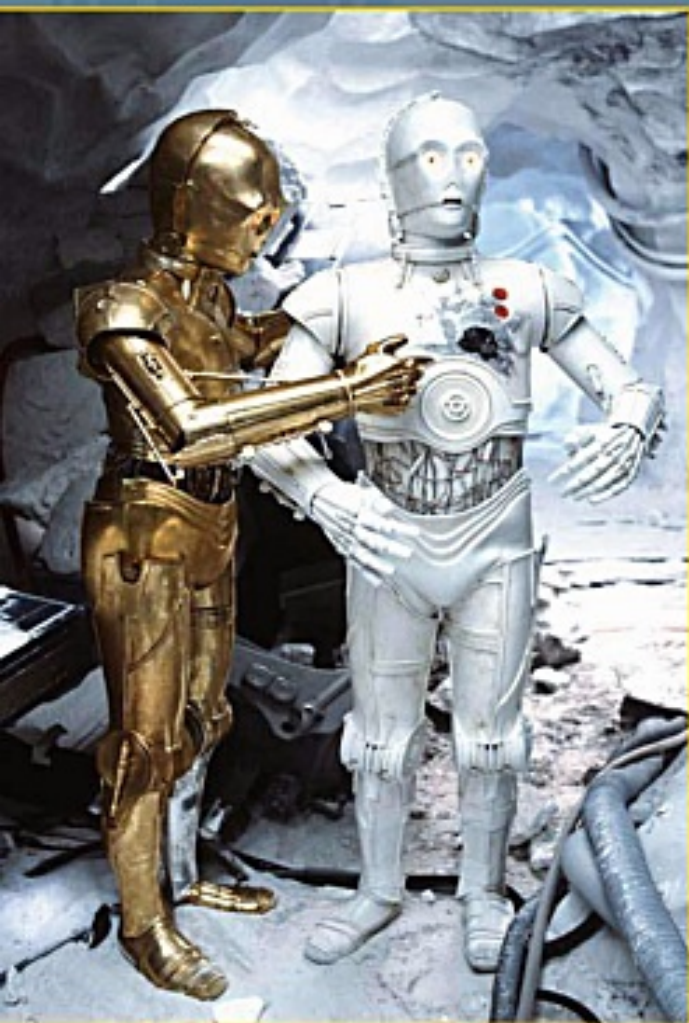
Why people like C-3PO

Threepio's character is transparent. I think that's why he's liked by so many people. There's no guile, no deviousness, no mystery. He is so obvious and he always states the obvious. If everyone is cowering back as a meteor hits the window, he is the one who says, "Look, a meteor." In the wrong circumstances that can be very irritating, but hopefully it can be funny too.

Filming the carbon freezing scene

It was a disgusting set because it was so steamy, and there was a horrible smell of wet rust in the air. It was actually not very pleasant. I was on Chewbacca's (Peter Mayhew's) back. There was fog or incense added for atmosphere.

"YOU ONLY HAD TO LOOK AT THE SCRIPT TO SEE THAT IT WAS VERY, VERY GOOD."
ANTHONY DANIELS



KENNY BAKER, R2-D2 INTERVIEWED IN 2005

Why *The Empire Strikes Back* is his favorite *Star Wars* movie

Irvin Kershner and I got on very well on set. He's such a genuine, nice man. *Star Wars* had been massive, so we all knew this was something to be part of. *Empire* is the darkest of the first three and there was much more of the story and characters.



Working with Harrison Ford and Mark Hamill

My youngest son Kevin, who was four at the time, didn't have his two front teeth. We were filming on the Hoth Hanger set for some time, with the full size *Millennium Falcon*. My two boys would come on set and play in the cockpit of the *Falcon* with Peter Mayhew, Harrison Ford and Mark Hamill in-between takes.

For some reason Kevin just couldn't say "Harrison." One day Harrison picked him up and said, "Listen kid if you can't say Harrison, just call me Peaches" at which point



Left: Kenny Baker gets ready to put his "work suit" on!
Above: Kenny takes shelter as a swarm of R2-D2s invade!

Mark came over and said "Well if you're calling him Peaches, you'd better call me Cream!" From then on, in our house, Luke and Han were known as Peaches and Cream!

THE ULTIMATE BOUNTY HUNTER

JEREMY BULLOCH, BOBA FETT
INTERVIEWED IN 2007

Getting the role of Boba Fett

My half-brother Robert Watts was the production manager. When they were filming the second film he phoned me and said "Get your agent onto this, it's not much, only a couple of days but they want to see people to play the bounty hunters." I was told that they only had one costume

much Jeremy but we'll see you on Monday."

What goes on behind the mask

When fans say, "I like the bit where you turn round or the way you press

a switch." I usually reply, "Well I was probably falling asleep at the time!" I was working in the theatre at night and luckily as a masked character you couldn't see that I was quite tired!



and I always say that if I hadn't fit the costume, I wouldn't have got the part. There was one outfit which zipped up at the back. It was almost tailored, the leggings drifted over the shoe. It was as if it was meant to be. A perfect fit. George Lucas said "Yeah that's fine. Well it's not very



KENNETH COLLEY, ADMIRAL PIETT INTERVIEWED IN 2008

Why *Empire* worked

At the time the most influential American critic was Pauline Kael and she called it the most beautiful looking film of the year and I think she was spot on. It was shot and framed wonderfully.

Working with Irvin Kershner

He was great at foreshortening [dialogue]. Irvin was brilliant at just honing it down to a single sentence that did the job. He's a great photographer, he is a great stills photographer of international note anyway, he has exhibitions around the world. That's why it looks so good.



THE IMPERIAL OFFICERS

JULIAN GLOVER, GENERAL VEERS INTERVIEWED IN 2005

Working on *Empire*

Kenneth Colley and I only filmed for a week. There was one scene with Darth Vader and myself. We didn't meet the main actors. As far as we were concerned we had no idea of the enormous success of *Empire*. At that time my next-door neighbor was the associate producer Robert Watts and he invited me in. Despite having such a small part in it, I think *Empire* is still the best of the lot.

General Veers' relationship to Darth Vader

I said to George Lucas "This man is a general. You don't get to be a general if you're a wimp." Of course, you have to be subservient to Darth Vader, he's the guy'nor, but you don't have to be sycophantic. Then he (Lucas) said "No, absolutely not." And in that one scene I stood up to Darth Vader a little.



AT-AT ATTACKERS!

**IAN LISTON, WES JANSON
INTERVIEWED IN 2005**

Below: Ian Liston played Wes as well as an AT-AT driver (below)



Not working with Denis Lawson (Wedge)

We never met on the set of the film as all our stuff was filmed "front on." If he appears to be in a shot with me, it's a double, and vice versa.

Wes' life beyond the movie

I love the books. It's been great fun reading them and seeing how the character of Wes has developed. He's always been a bit of a practical joker and sees the funny side of things; a bit like me in real life! I always look forward to the next book—if nothing else, to make sure he's not been bumped off! I've met Aaron Allston a few times and we get on well so, hopefully, Wes will hang in there for a while yet.



**CHRISTOPHER MALCOLM,
ZEY SENESCA
INTERVIEWED IN 2006**

His *Empire* experience

At the time of filming it was a growing

phenomenon so we knew that we were in something special, but there was also the normal physical grind of movie making. My stuff in the beginning had to be shot with a special camera and we had to wait for days before they got the right effect for the blue screen. In fact the camera they used was very famous as it was the one that shot *Gone With the Wind*.

I'm particularly pleased to have been in *The Empire Strikes Back* as it is acknowledged as one of the best sequels ever made. I am also pleased that at least one of my appearances in over 25 feature films made is in the top grossing films list!

THE OTHER EMPIRE!



**DONALD F. GLUT, AUTHOR,
*THE EMPIRE STRIKES
BACK* NOVELIZATION
INTERVIEWED IN 2007**

Novelizing the movie

I ran into Irvin Kershner and told him that, as far as I was concerned, there are two versions of *The Empire Strikes Back*. When he gave me a puzzled expression, I replied that there was the movie version that he directed, but there was also the version I saw in my head as I was writing the novel. When I saw the movie for the first time, I remember sinking down into my seat and saying, with much concern, "It's different!" The version in my mind was paced differently, the sets and characters "looked" different. That's probably the same experience for anyone reading a novelization before seeing the actual movie. Every reader has his or her own "other" version of the movie in their imaginations.



FUGITIVES FROM THE EMPIRE!

**HARRISON FORD
INTERVIEWED IN 1980**

Science fiction

[I had] no experience with it, but I didn't find it any problem to imagine it. I was always keyed into the human context of the relationship. It wasn't as apparent to some audiences as it was to me that that was an important element. But that doesn't matter. It's a necessary foundation for fantasy to have some approach to it, some way of keying yourself into it, some accessible characters. But it's a very skillful conception, and I found it no trouble to deal with.

Filming the sequel

The first one was a cakewalk compared to the second one. The second one was much more difficult. The relationships become more significant, the points that need to be brought across become more subtle. The first time, a great deal of energy was expended to establish a context for a relatively small story—heavily plotted, really articulately contrived, very fast moving with lots and lots of



Above, right: Harrison Ford relaxes on the set. Above: Ford finds a new mode of transport. Below: Han and the Princess.

information, and all kinds of things having to be established. It took a lot of energy and a lot of time, but the second time you come back, all of that is done for you. You can pretty much think that everyone who will see the second one has seen the first one. So they know who they are dealing with and you just walk on and start doing the story. I think it had to be a lot more interesting than the first one, because people were aware of who you were and what you were doing; they got a chance to look at you a little closer. You had to bear up under the scrutiny. It had to be more complex. I felt a sense of responsibility for making it better. I mean, you get a chance to do it over again—the only reason to do it is to do it better. If you can't do it better, it's boring. My part was more interesting this time, so I enjoyed myself a lot more, even though it was more difficult.



Differences between directors

The difference in directors was no problem. Each director brought different qualities to the same circumstances. George worked more simply, as was appropriate under the circumstances. I think it was a more agonizing task for Kersh. Because of the success of the first one, responsibilities encumbered in making the second one were far greater. I think he did a good job.

Filming in Norway

It was cold and slow. I hadn't anticipated being there at all. My scenes were supposed to be shot on the sound stage at the studio. I had just arrived in England as they left for Norway, and in no time at all, found myself whisked away to join them in Norway with no preparation, wearing a costume built for conditions on the stage. It was another one of those bizarre experiences in life. It wasn't as bad for the actors as it was for the crew. The English crew were incredibly tough. Our shelter was on the back of snowmobiles and such, and were never able to reach the base camp which they'd established on the glacier because of the weather.



**DENNIS MUREN,
SPECIAL EFFECTS
INTERVIEWED IN 2007**

The challenges of making *Empire*

It's the hardest film that I ever worked on, and one of the most rewarding. I thought the work came out really good and I liked the film a lot. That's because we had just

moved up from Los Angeles to San Francisco and we had to crew up all the people up here, an awful lot of them locally, because we didn't have very many who came up from L.A. for the show, and it was just very difficult. If you look at *Empire* compared to the original *Star Wars* it's far more complicated.



**PHIL TIPPETT,
SPECIAL EFFECTS
INTERVIEWED IN 2005**

The pressures of completing the movie

I recall torturing Jim Bloom who was managing ILM. At the time space was hard to come by and there were some safety issues. I made a cast of my finger, painted it, bloodied it up and put it on his desk along with a note that I'd had an accident. Things got fixed pretty fast! I mostly recall the camaraderie; Jon Berg and Joe Johnston shooting rockets off in the field, dart games and drinking beer late into the night, pranks Nilo Rodis and I played on some stodgy Union



bosses, Tom St. Amand and I smoking packs of cigarettes in the machine shop.

Making a tauntaun!

I sculpted a mock-up of the tauntaun and sent it to the *Star Wars* art department in England. There they constructed the full-size, eight-foot-

tall model that was used for the close-ups filmed in Norway and at EMI-Elstree Studios. In the meantime, I perfected a 12-inch tauntaun model to use for the animation. This version was sculpted in clay and then cast into a very flexible rubber material. We built a steel ball and socket skeleton that was put on the inside of the rubber model.



**PETER MAYHEW,
CHEWBACCA
INTERVIEWED IN 2009**

His favorite scene

I'm most proud of the scene where we're on Hoth and they close the doors and he's standing underneath the *Falcon* holding the ladder and he hears the clanging of the doors. It's the realization that people are still out there and he yells. That's one moment where you see the sympathetic side of Chewie.

Using a body double

If I remember rightly it was a Friday afternoon and we were filming on Cloud City. We were doing all the chases through the corridors out to where the *Falcon* was docked and I took a hard right down the corridor while lugging 50 pounds worth of Threepio on my back and everything just went black. The next thing I knew I was on the ground and everybody was crowded around me. They checked that I was breathing and assumed that I was all right.

They were more worried about any damage to Threepio!

They decided to try a body double to give me a break and it didn't work at all. The guy wasn't as tall as I was, and didn't have double joints so there's no way that he could imitate how I played the character. That information was inside my head—you couldn't put it down on paper. We re-shot the scenes again on Monday and it was all OK.



"I DID MY BIT FOR THE EMPIRE!"

Was Alan Harris the busiest man on *The Empire Strikes Back* set? He tells *Star Wars Insider* why he truly is a man of many parts! Interview by Mark Newbold

FIRST FETT!

I was called to EMI Studios for four costume fittings four months before filming began in September 1978. One of those fittings was for the costume for Boba Fett, which was built around me. No one knew who the actor would be at the time. Fortunately it was a good friend of mine, Jeremy Bulloch. When it was finished, the costume was all white. The helmet and backpack were made and there were real gas cylinders at the back. I was told to turn my hand down, they did some adjustments at the back, and a four-foot foot jet of flame came out of my wrist! It was one of the few times in my life when I've been frightened! If I'd made a wrong move, it could have blown up, and me with it.

I was there for the first week, to ease Anthony into the film, but I was physically too big for the suit. At the end of the week I was saying my goodbyes and Anthony said "Where you going?" I said I was making way for someone the right size." But he insisted that I stayed and I ended up there for five months, which was a lovely long job. As there were gaps between Anthony working there was the chance to do other things, if they needed me.



IRVIN KERSHNER SAID "LIE ON THE FLOOR", AND THEY PUT TWO TUBES UP MY NOSE AND COVERED ME IN PLASTER!

BACK TO BOSSK!

They built the costume for Bossk around me. It was a high altitude inner space suit. The suit was heated by hot water-pipes, as it was built for the extremes of space and it was stone cold in the suit. I needed the pipes to keep warm.

HELPING HAN

I played one of the Bespin guards who escorted the carbon frozen Han



Solo to *Slave I* and I provided the body for Han Solo in carbonite. Irvin Kershner said "Lie on the floor", they put two tubes up my nose and covered me in plaster! When it was finished they cut my face out and put Harrison's in.

SEND FOR THE TROOP(S)!

I appeared as a stormtrooper three times. Also I was a Rebel soldier listening to Bruce Boa during the Hoth briefing scene. I stood in one day for Harrison as his regular stand in had to go to a funeral. I also stood for in for Michael Culver, who was strangled by Darth Vader on the Star Destroyer, and Julian Glover when he was driving the AT-AT. ☺



DOUBLING A DROID!

On 5th January 1979, the main unit was still filming in Norway and we were shooting on the set. I was called to stand in for Anthony Daniels as C-3PO.

Top: Bossk joins the bounty hunters aboard Darth Vader's starship, *Executor*. Middle: Flame on! Left: Alan Harris (right) escorts Han Solo through Cloud City.

Interviews conducted by James Burns, Mark Newbold, Jonathan Wilkins, and Scott Chernoff.

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THE EMPIRE STRIKES FACT!

50 AMAZING FACTS YOU NEVER KNEW ABOUT EPISODE V!

01

THE EMPIRE CUTS BACK!

Among numerous shots that didn't make the final cut were a wampa attack on Echo Base, Luke Skywalker wearing a weird bacta mask, and assorted shots of Yoda training Luke.



02

A NEW EPISODE!

The Empire Strikes Back was the first *Star Wars* movie to have an episode designation on its initial release.



03

CALRISSIAN OR CLONE?

Lando Calrissian originally was named Lando Kadar, and he was a clone!





04

NOT JUST A JEDI WEAPON!

Han Solo is the only non-Jedi to use a lightsaber in the original trilogy. General Grievous holds the same "honor" in the prequels.

05



A LONG FLIGHT!

The only Hoth exterior shot not filmed in Norway was Luke's take-off in his trusty X-wing fighter.

06



A FAMILIAR VOICE

Mark Hamill voiced the announcement "The first transport is away!" during the evacuation of Echo Base.

07

MARCH TO VICTORY!

The Imperial March is heard for the first time in Empire. It has been used to introduce Mr. Burns in *The Simpsons* and is played at home games of the New York Yankees when visiting team players are announced. The Yankees arrive to the music from the awards ceremony in *A New Hope*.



08

R2-D2—YUCK!

For the Special Edition, Luke's dialogue to Artoo "You're lucky you don't taste good" was altered to "You're lucky you got out of there."



09

SPACE STUFF!

Among the asteroids, the ILM team added a tennis shoe and a potato. They are practically impossible to spot.



10



SAVING MONEY ON THE SLUG

The interior of the space slug was created by placing black plastic on the floor of the Echo Base hangar set and draping black curtains around the *Millennium Falcon*. Dry ice was released to complete the effect.





11

WAMPA ON THE LOOSE!

Contrary to popular opinion, the wampa attack sequence was not written to explain the scars incurred by Mark Hamill's car accident.

12



COLD COMFORT

Han's rescue of Luke on the frozen wastes of Hoth was shot by a somewhat comfortable crew. They were positioned in the doorway of their hotel so the camera wouldn't freeze; the actors worked outdoors in sub-freezing temperatures!

13



LITTLE LEIA

Actress Carrie Fisher is a foot shorter than Harrison Ford. As a result, some of their scenes together had to be filmed with her perched on a box.

14



FORD TRAILER

The breathless voiceover for *The Empire Strikes Back's* initial trailer, was performed by none other than Harrison Ford!

15



THE PYTHON AND THE PRINCESS

During the London stage shooting, Carrie Fisher rented a house belonging to Monty Python star Eric Idle!

16

SHINING ON

Filming on *Empire* was delayed because of a fire on the set of Stanley Kubrick's horror film, *The Shining*.



17



LUKE AVOIDS HOME

The Empire Strikes Back is the only movie not to feature a visit to Tatooine (although it does get a mention at the end).

18



THE OTHER YODA

Although Yoda was performed by Frank Oz, the National Public Radio version of the character was played by actor John Lithgow.

19

THE JEDI AND THE FROG

Mark Hamill, Anthony Daniels, and Peter Mayhew appeared on *The Muppet Show* to promote the release of the movie. Threepio even got to tap dance!



20

DYING FOR THE EMPIRE?

The Empire Strikes Back has the lowest body-count of the saga. It's also the only *Star Wars* film in which no major characters die.

21

**YODA'S ORIGINS?**

Yoda's home planet and species remain unknown, and George Lucas has indicated they will stay that way.

22

HOW UNCIVILIZED!

In the novelization, when Luke is fired on by stormtroopers in Cloud City, he returns fire. In the film, he simply takes cover.



23

NEVERENDING EMPIRE?

At 170 days, *Empire* had the longest shooting schedule of all the *Star Wars* movies.



25

**I AM YOUR FATHER?**

The carbon freeze chamber scene is the only time Darth Vader and C-3PO meet in the original trilogy.

24

**OTTER ON HOTH!**

The distinctive groan of the tauntaun was provided by a sea otter named Moda.



26

**OBI-WAN DAY**

Alec Guinness worked on the film for one day—Wednesday September 5, 1979.

27

FABULOUS FALCON

The full-size *Millennium Falcon* was first built for *Empire*. That was only a partial mock-up in *A New Hope*.



28

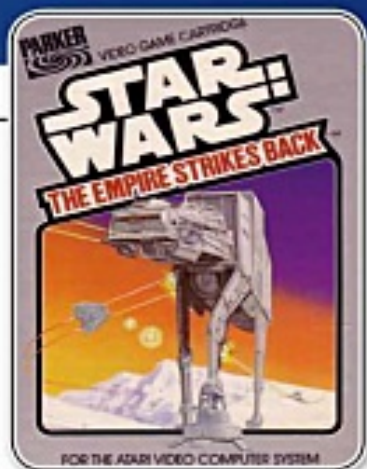
SON OF SKYWALKER

On the day Mark Hamill was filming on the weather vane beneath Cloud City, he received news that his wife had given birth to their first child. Nathan Hamill is now an artist.

29

GAME ON!

Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back, released in 1982 by Parker Brothers, was the first *Star Wars* video game.



30

VADER'S VOICE

Irvin Kershner performed Darth Vader's lines on the film's temporary soundtrack.



31



32

FROM DAGOBAH TO PERU

Some of the vines used to dress the Dagobah set found their way into the temple set used for the opening sequences of *Raiders of the Last Ark*.



REBEL ROUSERS

The Rebels on the front line at Hoth were played by 32 Norwegian mountain-rescue skiers. The production made a donation to the Norwegian Red Cross as a thank you for their work on the film.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

In the Expanded Universe, Admiral Ozzel first name was given as Kendal. In the BBC children's show *Grange Hill*, Kendal was the surname of a character who was bullied by Mr. Bronson, the school teacher played by...Michael Sheard!

34



33

VILLAINS FOREVER!

Actors Julian Glover (General Veers) and Michael Sheard (Admiral Ozzel) also played villains in *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*. Glover played Walter Donovan, and Sheard took on the role of Hitler.



35

FIRST BOUNTY

Bossk was the first action figure from *Empire* to become available via a send-away offer.



36

IT AIN'T EASY BEING GREEN

In the original comic book, Yoda is a purple, spindly creature.



37

YOU SEEK YODA?

Kenner's Yoda action figure was released late in order to preserve the surprise of his appearance.



38

THX FOR THE MEMORY!

The customary reference to George Lucas' classic *THX 1138* occurs when General Rieekan says, "Send Rogues ten and eleven to station three-eight."



39

A FULL STOMACH

Among the most inventive toys in Kenner's *Empire* range was the tauntaun with open-belly feature. The idea was recently appropriated for a tauntaun sleeping bag.



40

CARRIE HEARTS CHEWIE!

Carrie Fisher once quipped, "If Leia had her wits about her, she would have fallen for the big, strong Wookiee. She's not that experienced, but because she's a princess, she would have some kind of problem with whoever she dated. Like, 'She can't marry out of her solar system' or something."



41

LANDO AND THE BANDIT?

Billy Dee Williams was quoted in *Rolling Stone* magazine as saying that he saw Lando as a "Burt Reynolds kind of charmer."



42

JUDGE ME BY MY NAME DO YOU?

Yoda was originally a creature called "minch."



43

ISN'T THAT...?

Look out for cameos from Treat Williams, John Ratzenberger, and *Star Wars*' concept artist Ralph McQuarrie in Echo Base.



44

Starring
MARK HAMILL as Luke Skywalker
HARRISON FORD as Han Solo
CARRIE FISHER as Princess Leia

ON WITH THE STORY

As with *Star Wars*, George Lucas didn't want screen credits to come at the start of his movies. This was highly unusual at the time. The Writers Guild and the Directors Guild had allowed it for the first film, but when Lucas did the same for *Empire*, he was fined more than \$250,000.

45

AWARDS!

At the 1981 Oscar ceremony, *Empire* won an Academy Award for Best Sound and a Special Achievement Award for Visual Effects. It was nominated for Best Music, Original Score, and Best Art Direction-Set Decoration. John Williams received the BAFTA Award for Best Film Music. The film also received nominations from the British Academy for Best Sound and Best Production Design. Williams' score also received the Grammy Award and the Golden Globe. *The Empire Strikes Back* received four Saturn Awards, including Mark Hamill for Best Actor, Irvin Kershner for Best Director, Brian Johnson and Richard Edlund for Best Special Effects, and Best Science Fiction Film. The film was awarded Germany's Golden Screen Award as well as the Hugo Award for Best Dramatic Presentation.

46

WHO'S RUNNING THIS EMPIRE?

The Emperor originally had a very different look. His face was that of a woman, his eyes were those of a blinking chimpanzee, and his voice was actor Clive Revill.

ANYONE FOR ICE CREAM?

The character seen dashing through Cloud City holding what looks like an ice cream maker is Willrow Hood. After years of waiting, collectors were delighted when this *Star Wars* legend was made into an action figure last year!

47

48

YODA'S FACE FUZZ!

Creature designer Stuart Freeborn cleverly designed Yoda's top lip to look like a moustache, making him look even more like Albert Einstein.

LISTEN TO LOBOT!

Although Lobot is silent in the movie, he can be heard in the video games *Star Wars: Demolition* and *Star Wars: The Force Unleashed*. On both occasions he is voiced by *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* actor, Tom Kane.

49

UNLUCKY TAUNTAUN

In *Return of the Jedi*, Jabba the Hutt has a tauntaun head as one of his trophies, right next to the carbonite-frozen Han Solo.

50

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From top right: Mark Hamill and Irvin Kershner feel the cold in Norway; Luke and Leia get over-familiar; Hamill and Anthony Daniels share a joke. Main image: Han Solo takes the controls as Chewbacca (Peter Mayhew), Leia (Carrie Fisher), Luke and the droids (Daniels and Kenny Baker) hang on for dear life!

JEDI ARCHIVE

RARELY SEEN IMAGES FROM THE LUCASFILM ARCHIVES



Empire Tales

Author J.W. Rinzler has documented the making of *Revenge of the Sith* and the original *Star Wars* movie in fine detail. His biggest challenge to date is his latest book, telling the story of *The Making of Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back*. Words: Jonathan Wilkins

Can you remember your first impressions on seeing *The Empire Strikes Back*? My younger brother saw it first and said, "You have to see this movie, it's better than the first one, it's so incredible!" But then something really horrible happened. Before I had a chance to see it, I was in the schoolyard, and a friend comes up and says, "Look, I'm not going to tell you the ending of *Empire*, but I'm just going to tell you two letters, OE." And I go, "Oedipus." And my other friend somehow intuitively, "Oh, Darth Vader is Luke's father." And my first friend just stands there with his mouth open: "How did you guys figure that out?" So I knew already that Vader was Luke's father before I saw the movie, which ruined the climax for me!

It's a popular film within fandom, but also resonates far beyond that. Why do you think that is?

I don't really have anything to add to what everybody generally says, which is that the characters are explored in more depth, Han and Leia's relationship progresses in really interesting ways, and it has great writing and fantastic performances.

I don't think Mark Hamill gets the credit that he deserves, because the whole movie is basically on his shoulders. There are so many people who contributed a lot to it, but if you don't believe in his character, and his belief in Yoda, it wouldn't work. As Hamill has said, he's acting a lot of times with no dialogue coming from Yoda or Artoo-Detoo, and he makes it totally believable. His personal journey is very compelling.

I think Irvin Kershner, George Lucas, and Lawrence Kasdan really rolled up their sleeves and wrote a fantastic script together. George really believes in his movies, and believes in the characters, and I think he'd always envisioned a larger story. That story was constantly shifting, but he'd



Above: The final cover of *The Making of Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back* Below: The cast have fun on what was ultimately a tough shoot.

always seen it as a larger saga than just the first film. He invested his own money in *Empire*, and you can't do more than that in terms of showing confidence in your own ideas. People sometimes write that off or don't really think about it, but imagine mortgaging pretty much everything that you own to make a film. He could have just sat back and let 20th Century Fox or somebody else do it all, and enjoyed the





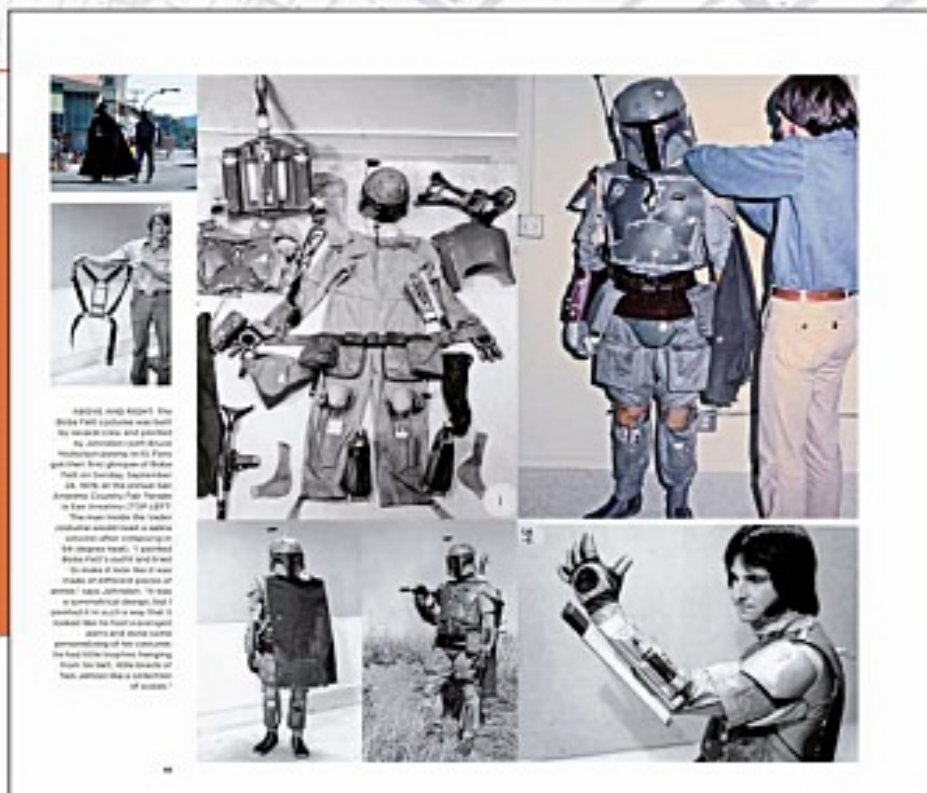
Above: Author J.W. Rinzler, this page and overleaf: assorted pages and rejected cover art for the book.

rewards of the original movie. He went right back into the battle and won, even though the budget almost quadrupled.

Why was it such a challenging film to make?

George, as is his habit, likes to go out on a limb; he created a more ambitious story and many more and complicated effects shots. And instead of just using the same characters, introduces Lando and Yoda, a character who nobody knew how to realize! In the book, there's pictures of a monkey dressed in a suit—that was one idea. They thought about using a child actor—that was discarded. They just didn't know what to do until George got together with Jim Henson, and Henson was thinking of making a movie, which turned out to be *The Dark Crystal*, and so they thought, *Well, let's pool our talent. You help me make Yoda and you give me Frank Oz, and he'll get experience working on a big budget movie, and that will help you guys.* So together with the incredible makeup artist, Stuart Freeborn, and of course Ralph McQuarrie's concepts and Joe Johnston's designs they all came together for Yoda.

During filming, nobody knew what his voice was going to be like, because they didn't think they would use Frank Oz. Frank was known as Miss Piggy! It would be an unfortunate connection in people's minds, and so it was after filming that George decided Frank Oz could provide the voice.



What is involved in the process of creating the book? Where do you start? Well, first I panic, which is followed by deep depression! This is the second book of this kind [the first being *The Making of Star Wars*] so I had a pretty good idea what

IT WAS AFTER FILMING THAT GEORGE DECIDED FRANK OZ COULD PROVIDE THE VOICE OF YODA.

I should do. The order of events was: I went into the research archives, and got all the drafts of the scripts together, and read through them and wrote summaries. This gave me a really good grasp of what the progress was towards the final script. Once I had that, then I went through the art archives, which was a lot of fun. I spent weeks there, eight hours a day, going through every single piece of

artwork, every storyboard, all the matte paintings, all the props, all the models, and decided what were the most important things to get into the book. I was lucky because I found some Ralph McQuarrie color studies that had been filed away in the wrong drawer! I also found the week-by-week ILM production notes by Miki Herman. That was fantastic, because then I knew what ILM was doing throughout most of the production.

Did you have access to any material from the original Alan Arnold book? Don Bies [the head of the R2-D2 unit for the prequel trilogy, model builder, and former archivist] told me that he had found the original cassettes that Alan Arnold [writer of the original *Making of Empire* book] made. I listened to a lot of

them, and then I had them all transcribed. I had a great transcriber, Cindy Young Russell, who spent literally hundreds of hours doing the work.

Once you have the raw data, what is the next step?

At that point, I started to collate all the information into a giant Word document, and then just put everything in order without doing any writing. Once that was in order, I started to try and make it into a manuscript that people would want to read.

It was a very long editing process, because I had a word count of about 150,000 words. You could probably write another whole book about the making of *Empire*, because there's always stories that people forget and that you hear about afterwards, but pretty much everything is in there.

to date his paintings to the day.

Then, the layout goes through several iterations. I also showed the manuscript to Dennis Muren, who made corrections for the ILM part. I talked to Jon Berg—who gave me some good stuff about the AT-AT—and Ben Burtt who took me on a tour of San Anselmo and showed me where the sound and editing facilities for *Empire* were.

Were there any great *Empire* mysteries that you managed to solve?

Well, we figured out who is under the Emperor makeup. I don't know if that's ever been divulged before. I asked a number of people and ultimately Dennis Muren remembered who did it, so that will be in the book. We clear up the death of General Veers. We reveal why the *Millennium Falcon* is having mechanical problems, which was cut out of the film. We show the difference between the 35mm

I DON'T THINK MARK HAMILL GETS THE CREDIT THAT HE DESERVES, BECAUSE THE WHOLE MOVIE IS BASICALLY ON HIS SHOULDERS.

Once the manuscript was completed, I sent George a rough draft, and he read it very closely. Then we met and we had a big interview. One of the most fun parts of making the book is that I sat down with him and spent about three hours going over all the pieces that weren't connecting. He let me see his bound copies of the script, and I compared that with what I'd read, because there were sometimes slightly different versions of the same draft.

Then I started laying out the book. Random House gave me a design template. I'd spent weeks already organizing all the pictures, which is another element of the research. I went into Image Archives where there are literally thousands of pictures, and so I had to go through all of those, and have new scans made of the original negatives.

Everything was in total disorganization when I received all the images, so I then had to go through and put everything in little files: Pre-production, production, every single scene, all the marketing art, all of Joe Johnston's art, McQuarrie's art. Ralph was a big help in that he had his daily planner from 1978, where he just wrote down everything, so that allowed me

and the 70mm ending.

There are lots of images fans will never have seen before. We reveal how Mark Hamill almost got killed a couple of times while filming. We also have the



ELIZABETH ADAMS (1815-1887)

With the official formation of Chapter II Productions Ltd., Epstein's efforts were spread in Ukraine (UAE) Studio in Kiev (October 1978), economic designer John Miles, another veteran of San Wars, was equipped with a script and some clothes left over from his original space fantasy," according to Alan Arnold, who once served the film as an editor in Chapter II's production had left the company in June.

"Some aspects seem to remain constant," says Wells, who would be aided by costume supervisor Tim Nichols, including costumes (Lillian Gish), and their settings. "The biggest changes would be a hotel, but with

From 1940 and, more recently, had worked at various libraries in
Savannah (1958).

"I had another visit in England the other week of north-easterly-lies Biddies," says Kesteven. "Wonderful ones. He stayed in the bottom one now and then and in with French ones."

"I've been convinced by women that were shut out," McQueen says. "Their offices were not mine, but now women's papers. There are a very few left out for from the media, and now the first did an article about me."

"Ralph McQuarrie's conceptual paintings in particular give you the a feeling of what Disney is after," says Bruce L. Brown, who began full time



DOI: 10.1002/for

some technical shortcomings to their area because we are using straight materials developed in the west but more."

Barstow's arrival in London on October 28 was noted by several newspapers and commented on by Peter Noble in his column: "Striding his inevitable Ford of Phoenia right Hollywood-fashion from Barstow Bay into Heathrow and was abashed at no-Doll Britain."

Boyle McQuarrie flew to the west coast. On October 30, he met the staff at Hill and read the fourth draft. In early November, McQuarrie began sweating some of the new threads with host Phillips, who, by all accounts, was another unusually nice, informal, downy fellow. He'd saved the more pointed bits for the other brother agencies in Los

in November. "The key to all of Empire and how it looked was the human component of H.Q. Empire and his conceptual sketches, which were like photographic plates on a set. It made everything so easy. Joe Johnson and Nils Rude did the rest."

Johnson had just left the production of *Bliss*, which they'd been discussing the minutiae of, if the specialty *Blissman*. "I left my colleague M. Miller to take over," he says. "Now I'm able to really start writing up *Empire*. Miller would have just joined Johnson as mechanical effects supervisor, but now was up to the helm to continue shuttling between England and the United States." It appears Fox knew East or West some time ago already. Fox jumps in again just after Christmas and then comes back for the New Year Season.



EWING COLBERT, 75, retired government supply clerk, remembered the incident as a background sports story. "In England, they don't really make anything, so everybody that would probably fly that route comes," says Huber. "But the question had one wrong letter. These were the letters to Norway and not here. They didn't need it and I don't know if you saw some Scotland."

collected in England,
producing longer, thicker
fibres than ordinary
cotton and that in fact
cotton will be replaced

1977: 'East was larger'
now, 15, still strongly connected
by Margaret Reynolds.
September 1978



ABOVE LEFT: George, who was often in the dark as to the content of his own and Frank's ideas, directed the scene. In the background is George's old friend, who would become his mentor, John Wood. (Photo: Lucasfilm)

ABOVE RIGHT: George's old friend, who would become his mentor, John Wood. (Photo: Lucasfilm)

ABOVE: George's old friend, who would become his mentor, John Wood. (Photo: Lucasfilm)



Was there anything that you couldn't fit into the book?

After the book was pretty much done, I found an old transcript in another part of the archives from September 1977. It was George talking about the Expanded Universe. There's this one great quote where he talks about all the stuff he has to do, and I wish I had gotten that into the book. He says, "I've got to find a writer for *More American Graffiti* and I've got to do the sequel, and people are writing *Star Wars* books—and this whole thing is getting out of control!"

Is there likely to be a volume dealing with *Return of the Jedi*, or maybe the prequels at some point?

We're in discussions with Random House about a *Making of Return of the Jedi* book, but to be honest, *Empire* kind of depended on how the *Making of Star Wars* did. It did well enough to justify *Empire*, but *Empire* will have to do well enough to justify *Jedi*.

There is lots of material for the prequel books. We could do a giant *Making of Episode I and Episode II*. I would like to go back to Episode III, because we were never able to finish that. The manuscript had to be turned in six months before they had completed the film, so I'd love to take that and adapt that to this format. ☺

complete saga of whether Alec Guinness was going to return, because for a time he wasn't.

What were the big surprises that you discovered when writing the book? I think overall it surprised me just how difficult it was to make the movie. Every single person at ILM that I spoke to said it was the most difficult film that they have ever worked on, much more difficult than *Star Wars*. It had something like double, or close to triple, the effects shots, and they were much more ambitious.

When George said, "We're going to do all this against a white background on a snowscape," some of them wanted to throw themselves off the tallest building they could find, because you just couldn't do that stuff. It was interesting to see that ILM had to be completely reformed after *Star Wars*. Nobody had been under contract.

After Leigh Brackett delivered her first draft, which was really not the first draft they were looking for, and then sadly passed away, it took George—who had taken years to write *Star Wars*—something like six weeks to write the second draft. Lawrence Kasdan came in and made it great, polished it. George knew the characters, and he knew the world. There's an interesting quote in the first *Making of Star Wars* book, where

he talked about Gene Roddenberry's experience making *Star Trek*, and how they had to live in that world a while before they could start writing their best episodes.

How did Sir Ridley Scott come to write the foreword to the book?

We wanted a peer of George's to write the foreword. On one of the *Star Wars* DVD documentaries Ridley Scott talks about how he went to see *Star Wars* and it just changed his life.

He said he came out of the theater and said something like, "What am I doing? This guy is making movies like none of us." He was going to do *Tristan and Isolde* or something, and he said, "Well, forget that, I want to do something like this guy is doing," and went to Cannes, and met somebody who had the *Alien* script, and the rest is history. So he seemed like a logical choice.

He was shooting *Robin Hood* the whole time I was trying to get him to write the foreword, and luckily he was able to scratch out enough time to do it.



EXPANDED UNIVERSE
The *Making of Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back* is available in bookstores October 12

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STAR WARS THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK

TOY SHOPS!

HASBRO TURNS BACK THE CLOCK TO HONOR *EMPIRE* AND LAUNCH VINTAGE-STYLE FIGURES BY JASON FRY

Hasbro is relaunching its line of *Star Wars* figures and toys by returning to the silver-and-black design beloved by collectors, with figures from the prequels and "classic" trilogy alike appearing in the

vintage style. To kick off the new line, Hasbro is turning to *The Empire Strikes Back*, which celebrates its 30th anniversary in 2010.

"Both we and Lucasfilm felt that it was a great idea

to relaunch vintage to encompass the entire saga," says Derryl DePriest, Hasbro Vice President of Global Brand Management and Development, "but we concentrated the first wave on a really heavy dose of *The Empire Strikes Back*."

That first wave will include 11 figures, eight of which are new. There's a dead-on likeness of Luke Skywalker in his Bespin fatigues and a new version of Princess Leia in her Hoth uniform. Hasbro has updated the scarred bounty hunter Dengar with vintage-style articulation. (Fellow hunters Boba Fett and 4-LOM will be repackaged on vintage-style cards, along with their employer Darth Vader.)

Empire poses a toy making challenge, though: It largely focuses on the core characters, and so most of its potential figures have already been immortalized in plastic.

DePriest says that after watching *Empire* the team found a way to give fans a new take on Han Solo: In one scene at Echo Base, Han is wearing his parka, but his hood is down and his coat



is open. You want detailing? Check out the quilting inside Han's jacket, and note that it's painted.

"When we do a character over and over again we always want to one-up ourselves," says Design Manager Brian Parrish. Speaking of detail, Parrish says Hasbro

turned to Lucasfilm for help determining if Han's rank badge is on the jacket: "We couldn't find a good photo reference, but Lucasfilm said they found it wasn't on his outer coat in that scene. So we didn't put the insignia on."

The designers note that the figures have benefited from a steady evolution in manufacturing processes and capabilities. As an example, Parrish notes that a few years ago, "we really pushed the vendors to create torsos out of PVC as opposed to ABS. To the



layperson that may not mean anything, but the quality of the plastics allow for different capabilities."

With ABS sculpts, Parrish explains, some detail gets lost between molds and completed figures. PVC sculpts preserve more detail—which, among other things, gives Hasbro the chance to revisit classic characters—such as a new C-3PO with removable plating that reveals the droid's electronic innards.

"Previously, we always tried to vacuum-metalize him because he's so shiny," Parrish says. "In the vacuum-metalizing process you have to use different plastics that reduce the detail you can actually capture. Then the process basically coats the figure, which fills in details. For this particular Threepio, we knew there might be some tradeoffs with how shiny he is. But we really wanted to include the

best-sculpted detail that we've ever been able to do."

Secondary characters will get love too: There's a new figure of Luke's luckless gunner Dack Ralter, who previously appeared only as a vehicle pack-in, as well as a new Cloud Car Pilot and an AT-AT Commander (more on their rides later).

One new figure boasts little in the way of articulation—and that's as it should be.



debated offering a new Fett sculpt with a rocket-firing jetpack, or going back to the primeval Kenner sculpt.

"I was in favor of doing the new articulation style, and I had to be convinced," DePriest says, adding that ultimately the decision was an emotional one, described by Parrish as "the fulfillment of a promise that Kenner had made."

"The appeal came down to 'This is the figure that you were promised and that you never actually got,'" He continues. And that changed his mind: "I was like, 'You have me. That's what I want to get.' And that's what we want the fans to experience too."

Now, about those rides: Three new vehicles will be available—a Cloud Car, a Snowspeeder and an AT-AT.

The Twin-Pod Cloud Car is a first for the modern line, and the product of efforts to solve a marketing problem. Vehicles that don't strike kids as weapon-heavy

Fans will be able to mail away for a rocket-firing Boba Fett figure in the original Kenner style. This is the figure fans hoped to receive in the late 1970s, only to get a figure whose jetpack missile had been welded in place because of a choking death involving a *Battlestar Galactica* projectile. (DePriest remembers that, "I sent in for six Boba Fetts when I was a kid. I kept getting them, and they weren't rocket-firing, and I'd say, 'It might be a mistake'".)

DePriest says the team





enough generally don't sell well, and as seen on-screen the Cloud Car is basically a flying taxicab. But collectors want toys to be as movie-accurate as possible. Hasbro's answer is to give the Cloud Car guns and missiles that flip up from concealed compartments, allowing the vehicle to look like the movie prop. The Cloud Car can also split in two—an idea Parrish says came from *Empire* concept art of a single-pod car.

"Whenever we come up with new play features, we want to make sure that they don't alienate fans," Parrish explains.

The new Snowspeeder is actually a bit smaller than previous incarnations. Senior Principal Designer Mark Boudreaux says the original Snowspeeder needed to be scaled up somewhat so batteries could fit in it. Those who remember the old vehicle will also



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Veteran *Star Wars* collectors remember that when the bounty hunters from *The Empire Strikes Back* became toys three decades ago, 4-LOM was a bug-like bounty hunter, while a rusty, evil-looking droid was Zuckuss.

If that seems backwards, it was—the characters' names had been switched. They were properly assigned in the modern Hasbro line. But in returning to the vintage look Hasbro had a dilemma: Use the correct names, or be faithful to the mistake?

The toy maker has done both. As an homage to that long-ago switch, a special two-pack of 4-LOM and Zuckuss will be available at Celebration V and online, offering the two figures on cards with switched names and slight differences in look that evoke the vintage figures.

The two-pack was previously only available in small quantities at the Official German Fan Club's Jedi-Con event earlier this year.



find Dack no longer has to be jammed into the back seat.

"We pushed the figures forward as much as we could," Boudreaux says, explaining that to do so, Hasbro decided to "cheat the bottom" a bit, making the cockpit a bit deeper and extending it forward. "You'd never notice it unless someone brought it to your attention."

As with the Cloud Car, the team looked to meld movie accuracy and play value. The Snowspeeder's cannons and harpoon can be replaced with ones that fire projectiles, and removable panels can simulate battle damage. Sharp-eyed collectors will also note a little recess by the pilot's chair. That's not for some intergalactic Big Gulp, but the harpoon launcher that came with Luke in his Hoth

flight suit.

Luke and Dack will have a huge new foe:

Hasbro's new AT-AT Walker stands more than two feet high, towering over the earlier version like a mother elephant protecting her baby.

As with last year's new *Millennium Falcon*, the AT-AT is packed with features, making it as much a playset as a vehicle. The head holds six figures and comes with firing projectiles and light-up chin guns, while the interior of the body (never seen in the movies) is full of realistic details. Flip-up panels on both sides reveal a hold where Imperial troops can muster, complete with

consoles, a ladder, railings and a rappelling harness for reaching the surface. (So *that's* how they did it!) There's also a hidden winch for lifting Luke on a cable to the walker's belly, flip-up guns that double as a handle to move the head—replacing a pulley system within the body—and a back hatch that houses the speeder bike. (It's included, as is an AT-AT Driver.)

The AT-AT has an impressive array of sounds, from the heavy tramp of footsteps to cannon fire and voices. "If you hold down the buttons, you get little phrases," Parrish says. "There's a whole menu of sequences that randomly happen and really bring life to the toy."

Parrish notes that the bigger scale is





"very accurate" to the figures—if you want to squish poor Dack, he'll disappear satisfyingly under one giant foot.

Hasbro is going back to the future with vehicle packaging, as well. The AT-AT and the Snowspeeder will come out in regular packaging and limited-edition packaging that evokes

the vintage releases. (Hasbro even recreated the box art with modern figures.)

That art "just makes everything in our celebration feel bigger," DePriest says.

"Our *Empire* plan is based around recreating that excitement that we had as kids 30 years ago." 🤖



BILLY DEE WILLIAMS

THE CLOUD KING!

THE LEGENDARY LOTHARIO
LOOKS BACK ON LANDO'S
LARGER-THAN-LIFE DEBUT.
BY SCOTT CHERNOFF

The stakes were raised, the Rebels were on the run, and the Empire was striking back: It was the perfect time to meet a mysterious new player with the makings of a major hero. With the chips down, we weren't sure whether or not we should trust Lando Calrissian, but Billy Dee Williams' charismatic performance sure made us want to.

With his elegant look, suave demeanor, and headphone-rocking sidekick, the Cloud City administrator-turned-undercover-palace-guard immediately became a *Star Wars* icon. Lando was a controversial kind of good guy—a scoundrel who betrayed Han Solo—only to reverse course, join the Rebellion, and not only rescue his old friend but also play a crucial role in the final battle that brings peace to the galaxy.

Plus, he's got that manly mustache—so it's pretty much all win for our hero in the cape.

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of Lando's movie debut, *The Empire Strikes Back*, *Insider* tracked down the great Billy Dee Williams for an all-new interview. The first time I interviewed Billy Dee was for *Star Wars Insider* #38, back in 1998—we talked a lot about Lando, but also about Billy Dee's life with the ladies. Since then, I've interviewed him a lot, including once for *Empire's* 20th anniversary, and twice live on stage, at *Star Wars Celebrations II* and *IV*. (We also acted together in a sketch on TV's *Jimmy Kimmel Live*, where he frequently appears.) I'm still a huge Billy Dee fan, so this time, I tried to avoid the usual questions and get straight to the heart of Lando's unique appeal.

Star Wars Insider: Which of the following words best describes Lando Calrissian: Suave; Debonair; Dashing; Elegant; cool or supercool?

Billy Dee Williams: How about all of the above?

What is the smoothest part of Lando's look—is it his cape or his mustache?

Well, I think it's his approach, but the mustache or the cape? Let's



He was a good guy all along! Lando takes arms against the Empire! Below: A new Rebel hero is revealed!

see. When I got that cape, I really tried to use it as much as I could. That was a key for me, a key factor as far as the character was concerned. It reminded me of all those wonderful swashbuckling movies with Errol Flynn that I used to see when I was a kid. That was exciting for me.

The cape was something to work with, something interesting to play around with and find the character through.

In your mind, what was Lando's life before we met him?

I think he was like a Steve Wynn [multi-millionaire owner of Las Vegas casinos]. When he had Cloud City, he was running something that was comparable to Vegas. He was very wealthy and running the whole show, so he was quite a businessman. But he also was a great gambler!

How about the ladies? What was Lando's love life?

Oh, the ladies were there. There were an awful lot of ladies.

What would have happened if Lando had more time to put his moves on Princess Leia, because it looked to me like you were getting somewhere?



Well, there's always the story that's not on the screen.

Oh, so you're saying maybe something was going on there that we didn't get to see?

Well, there was certainly the possibility. Let's put it that way. It would have been very difficult to pass that one up. I think there was an attraction.

Why is *The Empire Strikes Back* such a popular *Star Wars* movie?

It was the production value, the look, and the script. I think Irvin Kershner had a lot to do with it.

I saw something about you on the Internet, and I don't buy it for a minute. So please take a moment to respond to the rumor that you auditioned for the part of Han Solo in the original *Star Wars*.

No. I've been hearing that, but that's not true. At the time I got this job, they asked me to play Lando Calrissian. I was under contract to [legendary Motown Music founder] Berry Gordy, and it was through him that I worked for George Lucas.

Didn't you then go on to play Berry Gordy in a TV miniseries about Michael Jackson? Yes. He was very close to me. I'm probably the only one who could really capture certain aspects of the character of Berry Gordy.



Lando joins Chewbacca in the cockpit of his old ship, the *Millennium Falcon*.

He was a good guy all along! Lando takes arms against the Empire! Below: A new Rebel hero is revealed!

There's something wonderfully mystical about Berry, and that's one of the things I wanted to capture about this iconic figure.

Speaking of such figures, when we next saw Lando in *Return of the Jedi*, he was suddenly a general. Let's be honest—that was pretty fast, wasn't it? Yeah, I know. That's movie magic. It's

very interesting—he becomes a general, and why he became a general was never explained. I mean, there was no army to really speak of.

So you're saying maybe he moved up so quickly because there was no competition. That's good because if I'm a Rebel soldier striving for years to work my way up the ranks, I'm looking at Lando waltzing in as general, and I'm wondering why I'm not at least a corporal or something.

Hey, I blew a whole situation just to become general. I had a great, fantastic thing going in my life—in Lando's life.

You raise a good point. What are the differences between Lando Calrissian and Billy Dee Williams?

Well there's an awful lot of Billy Dee in Lando. I think I'm a pretty charming guy. I don't take myself seriously, and I think that's a good thing.

I've always admired men who were subtly cool. I loved Duke

Ellington. But he was also very entertaining at the same time. I've always wanted to play Ellington. I came very close to playing him a few times. It should have happened. I think I'm the only one who could really pull it off, because the guy was such an interesting individual, and I understand that kind of charm. I don't know if there are any other guys around today who really understand it.

I know I don't.

Well, it was a different time, a different sensibility.

And you carried that era of romance into the *Star Wars* universe.

That's because I understand it. It's like a young person trying to sing those old ballads, those old standards—it's not an easy thing to do if you've not been a part of it.

What did the experience of making *The Empire Strikes Back* mean to you?

To me, it was a job. And I was very happy to work for George Lucas, because I really liked what he was doing at that time. He was a part of that whole new movement of film makers. It was a period I was very happy to be a part of.





Lando welcomes Han, Leia and Chewie to Cloud City.

a lot of them do have a life! A lot of them are just big fans, who are very bright people. I find it very interesting. I have never in my life wanted to be that kind of a fan for anything, but thank goodness those people do exist.

I don't have the same career I had then. But my career still somehow exists as a result of those experiences. We actors love to be patted on the head, told how wonderful we are—we live our lives for that. It's great when I do a Q&A and the place is packed.

It makes me feel good.

You know, people ask if it bothers me to always be recognized as Lando, but I succeeded in creating a character that people remember and people quote from. You can't ask for more than that.



Sharp shooter! Lando leads the escape from Cloud City!

What did he tell you about Lando?

I don't remember any real discussions about how to interpret Lando. They let me go. They trusted my interpretation. There were other concerns they had—all the technological stuff, the blue screen. So it seemed to me they left it to the actors to develop the characters. All the actors had personalities that really worked for what they were trying to convey.

What stands out in your mind about shooting *Empire*?

Spending all those months in England and all the fun I had.

You've become a regular on the convention circuit. Fans freak for you at *Star Wars* Celebrations. What's it like from your perspective?

I have a lot of fun. I absolutely and totally enjoy them. I remember when William Shatner said, "Don't these people have a life?" But what I've discovered is that



General Lando Calrissian: Rebel Hero!

2010 is not only the 30th anniversary of *Empire*, it's also the 10th anniversary of your syndicated crime-fighting trucker TV series, *18 Wheels of Justice*. Why isn't that anniversary getting the same kind of attention?

I'm an actor, and I enjoy working. That was a good time.

You were recently part of the soap-opera *General Hospital* and its spin-off *Night Shift*. Tell me, who was Touissant DuBois, and how exactly did he differ from Brady Lloyd, your character on *Dynasty*?

Oh, they were totally different characters. To be fair, Brady was a rich guy and the other was a janitor—but you have to admit, Touissant DuBois does not sound like the name of a janitor. I'm assuming he was a secret billionaire.

When you're an actor, you take the situation and make something out of it, whether it's a person making a lot of money or a person struggling through life.

You went from doing *Lost* spoofs on *Jimmy Kimmel Live* to actually appearing as

yourself on an episode of *Lost* ("Exposé", Season Three). Did you have to travel through any alternate times or dimensions to pull that off?

Well, I traveled to Hawaii, which is not a bad trip at all. I thought it was very interesting—they created a show within the show where it was me, Billy Dee, playing a killer. I guess in this industry I've developed this persona. It's a good thing, but sometimes it's not such a good thing.

When is it not a good thing?

I don't know—maybe it's always OK. In my career, I've developed this persona, and it has made a pretty good living for me. But

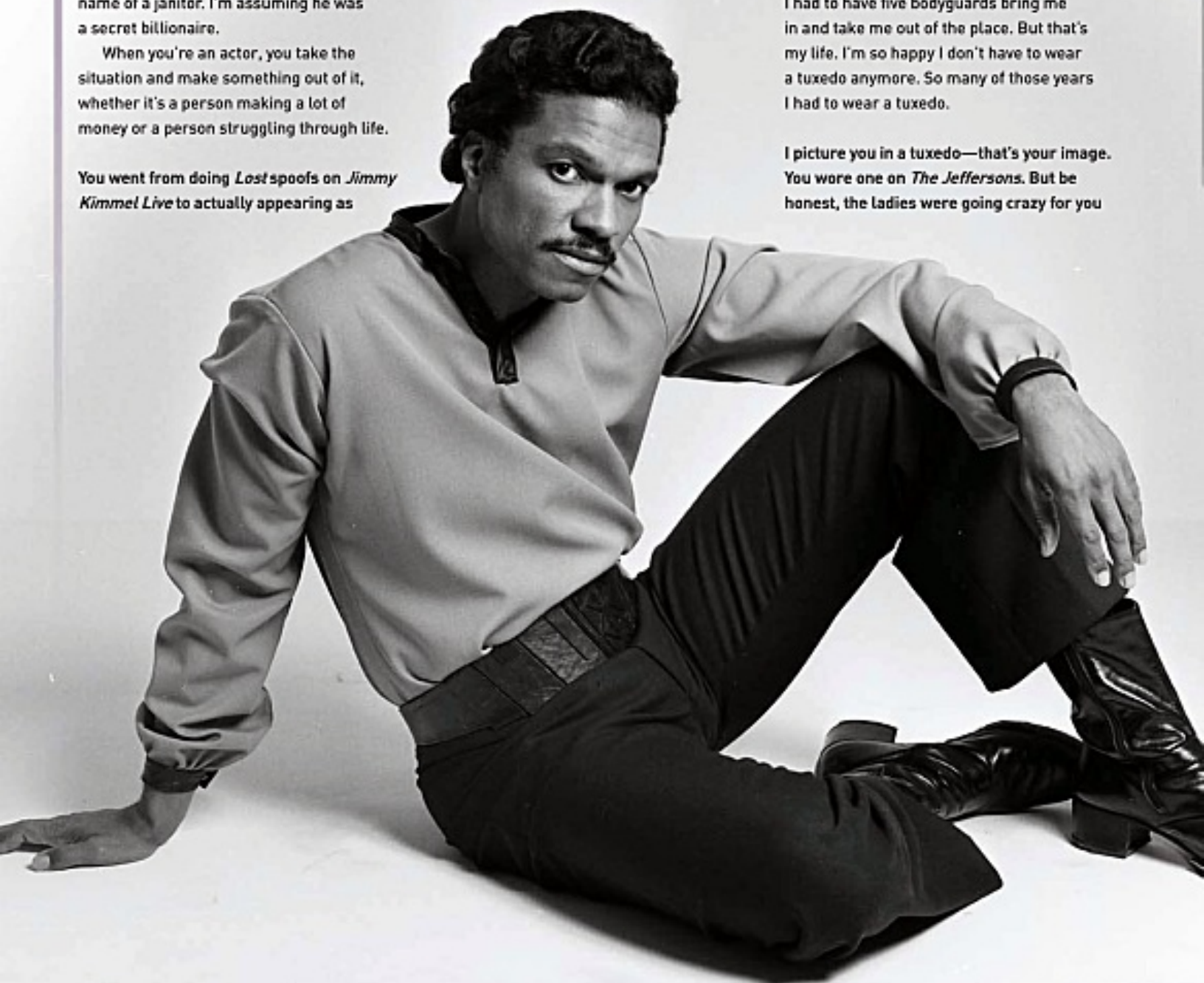
it's typecasting—people see you in a certain kind of way, and sometimes it's difficult to see you in any other kind of way. I try to work against that as much as I can, especially fooling around with humor.

I love it when you play yourself, like on that classic episode of the old sitcom, *The Jeffersons*.

Yeah, that turned out to be a cause célèbre for a lot of people. It's because right after *Lady Sings the Blues*, I became this matinee idol, and all the ladies were going crazy.

I remember once I was promoting a movie, and they rented out the whole first floor of a department store, and the place was wall-to-wall packed with women. I had to have five bodyguards bring me in and take me out of the place. But that's my life. I'm so happy I don't have to wear a tuxedo anymore. So many of those years I had to wear a tuxedo.

I picture you in a tuxedo—that's your image. You wore one on *The Jeffersons*. But be honest, the ladies were going crazy for you



long before you were a famous, tuxedo-clad sex symbol.

Well, yeah, I never had a tremendous amount of difficulty as far as that's concerned. Going back to Broadway when I did *A Taste of Honey*, I was touted as this romantic type, so that's been going on for a while. And I was raised around a lot of ladies—my sister, my grandmother, my mom. I used to feel sorry for my father

Having sold out Han to the Empire, Lando makes amends.

Sharp shooter! Lando leads the escape from Cloud City!

Friends reunited! Lando and Han meet again in trying circumstances!



because I was so spoiled. Women have been a part of my life from the beginning.

What advice do you give the average *Star Wars* fan in the romance department? Just be yourself.

That works when you're you. You've done Lando's voice recently for video games and *Robot Chicken*. Does it take long to fall back into character?

It's been going on for so long, it's just a part of me.

Who would win in a fight—Lando Calrissian, or Billy Dee Williams?

Neither one of us. We're lovers, not fighters.



Billy Dee takes his place on the Millennium Falcon set.

"I LOVE YOU." "I KNOW."

WHAT THEY SAID

"I hated the line 'I love you too,' because it gives her [Leia] the advantage, and whenever anyone says 'I love you,' 'I love you too,' you're at a disadvantage—the other person said it first. We shot 'I love you too,' and [I said] 'Let's come up with another line.' Well, I came up with lines, Harrison came up with lines, everyone came up with lines, and we shot for another half hour, on lunch penalty. And I just went crazy, because they wanted their beers—which they drink in England during lunch—and I wanted, you know, to get the right line. After a half hour, we gave up and I said 'Let's do one more take. Don't think about it, shoot! Action!' And Harrison pulled back and said, 'I know,' and I said, okay, *that's it. Lunch!*"
Director Irvin Kershner, *The Empire Strikes Back* DVD commentary, 2006

INT. CLOUD CITY – CARBON FREEZING CHAMBER

There has been great activity on the carbon-freezing platform. Six Ugnaughts have frantically prepared the chamber for use. A special coffin-like container has been put in place. With Boba Fett in the lead, a squad of six stormtroopers brings in Han, Leia, and Chewie. Strapped to Chewie's back, with only his head, torso and one arm assembled, is Threepio. Threepio's head faces the opposite direction from Chewie's. The remaining pieces of his body are randomly bundled to the Wookiee's back so his legs and other arm stick out at odd angles from the pack.

THREEPIO: If only you had attached my legs, I wouldn't be in this ridiculous position. Now, remember, Chewbacca, you have a responsibility to me, so don't do anything foolish.

HAN [to Lando]: What's going on... buddy?

LANDO: You're being put into carbon freeze.

WHY IT'S A CLASSIC

Throughout the film Han and Leia's relationship has been building, from their Hepburn and Tracy-style verbal sparring in the hallways of Echo Base to their first kiss in the *Millennium Falcon* to this moment, when Han will be taken away from her. The self-assured princess has before this point seen her homeworld destroyed and stood up to Imperial torture, but this is arguably the moment when she is at her most vulnerable. Only at this moment can Leia finally break through her own reserve and admit she loves Han, while Han typically undercuts Leia's heartfelt profession of love with the self-assured "I know," though he of course feels the same way. The scene is a measure of how far Han has come as a person since we first saw him in the Mos Eisley cantina. Back then, all Han cared about was money. Now, not only is he in love with Leia, but he's also putting others before him, reminding Chewie that he has to take care of the princess rather than fruitlessly try to save him.

CLASSIC MOMENT

STAR WARS: EPISODE V
THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK
DVD CHAPTER 40

WHAT THEY SAID

Harrison Ford: As I pass by her, I think Leia ought to say very simply, "I love you."
Irvin Kershner: (Tries it out) "I love you." And you say, "Just remember that, Leia, because I'll be back." You've got to say, "I'll be back." You *must*. It's almost contractual!
HF: If she says "I love you," and I say "I know," that's beautiful and acceptable and funny.

Once Upon A Galaxy: A Journal of the Making of The Empire Strikes Back by Alan Arnold (1980)

SCRIPT (1980)

Boba Fett moves away from the group to Darth Vader.

BOBA FETT: What if he doesn't survive? He's worth a lot to me.

VADER: The Empire will compensate you if he dies. Put him in!

Realizing what is about to happen, Chewie lets out a wild howl and attacks the stormtroopers surrounding Han.

From the instant of Chewie's first move, Threepio begins to scream in panic while he tries to protect himself with his arm.

THREEPIO: Oh, no! No, no, no! Stop.

HAN: Stop, Chewie, stop! Stop!

THREEPIO: Yes, stop, please! I'm not ready to die.

Han breaks away from his captors. Vader has evidently nodded to the guards to let him go and the pirate breaks up the fight.

HAN: Hey, hey! Listen to me. Chewie! Chewie, this won't help me. Hey! Save your strength. There'll be another time. The princess - you have to take care of her. You hear me? Huh?

The Wookiee wails a doleful farewell.

Han turns to Princess Leia. They look sorrowfully at one another, then Han moves toward her and gives her a final, passionate kiss.

LEIA: I love you!

HAN: I know.

Helpless, Leia watches the dashing pirate on the hydraulic platform. Han looks one final time at his friends - and then, suddenly, the platform drops. Chewie howls. Leia turns away in agony.

Lando winces in sorrow; it makes a life-changing impression on him. Instantly, smoke begins to pour forth. Holding Leia, Chewie half-turns away from

the sight, giving Threepio a view of the procedure.

THREEPIO: What... What's going on? Turn around, Chewbacca. I can't see.

Chewie howls. A huge mechanical tong lifts the steaming metal-encased space pirate out of the vat and stands him on the platform. Some Ugnaughts rush over and push the block over on the platform. Lando kneels and adjusts some knobs, measuring the heat. He shakes his head in relief.

THREEPIO: Oh... they've encased him in carbonite. He should be quite well protected - if he survived the freezing process, that is.

VADER: Well, Calrissian, did he survive?

LANDO: Yes, he's alive. And in perfect hibernation.

Vader turns to Boba Fett.

VADER: He's all yours, bounty hunter. Reset the chamber for Skywalker.

NEXT TIME: ANAKIN BETRAYED

INSIDER 73

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BOOKS

TRACE THE EVOLUTION OF THE SAGA FROM THE 1970S TO TODAY IN *STAR WARS: YEAR BY YEAR—A VISUAL CHRONICLE* WORDS: DANIEL WALLACE

REMEMBER WHEN?

A long time ago on a planet not so far away, George Lucas distilled the movie-matinee inspirations of his childhood into a space fantasy about a boy, a girl, and a universe. *Star Wars* is arguably the biggest pop-culture bombshell of the last 40 years, having revolutionized the movie business, rewritten the rules of merchandising, and inspired a legion of devoted fans.

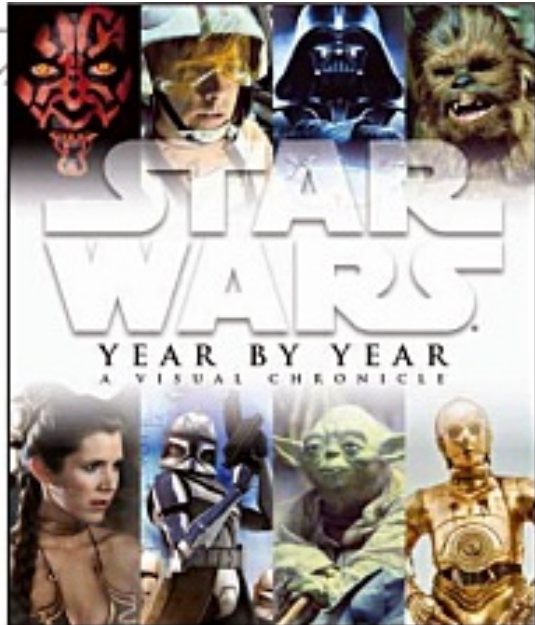
This summer, DK takes a cue from its popular comic-book history *The Marvel Chronicle* and presents the real-world influences and effects of the *Star Wars* phenomenon from the 1970s to 2010. *Star Wars: Year by Year* is a 320-page slipcased hardcover that follows the saga from its embryonic stages, early influences, and the production of the classic trilogy, to the sleepy period of the late 1980s/early 1990s and the release of the Special Editions and the prequels, finishing with the current animated era. Along the way it lays out the minutiae of *Star Wars* collectibles, novels, comics, games, and ILM's visual effects milestones alongside major social and political events.

"At DK we were inspired by our wealth of nonfiction references to create a series of licensed chronicles, starting with *The Marvel Chronicle*," explains editor

Elizabeth Dowsett. "But rather than copying the Marvel format, we worked closely with Lucasfilm to create a year-by-year book that works specifically for *Star Wars*. Our aim is to have a book that is different from any other *Star Wars* book out there and contains information that even the most ardent fan might not know."

The book hopes to prove that point by making every spread a feast for the eyes and the brain. Over 1,600 images—including never-before-seen pictures from the Lucasfilm Archives and specially-commissioned merchandise photographs—pack the pages of *Star Wars: Year by Year* and illuminate the research of *Star Wars* experts Ryder Windham, Pablo Hidalgo, Daniel Wallace, and Gus Lopez. Each writer penned a different section, with Windham tackling the classic trilogy, Wallace filling out the middle years, Hidalgo chronicling the prequels and beyond, and Lopez contributing his collectibles mastery throughout.

Within the pages, fans can gain insights into the *Star Wars* phenomenon through pleasing juxtapositions that make history click. Everyone remembers 1977 as the year that *Star Wars* arrived on the scene, but you'll look at the year with fresh eyes



seeing photos of the film's first public screening under the codename "Alaska," Spider-Man jumping on the bandwagon by aping Luke Skywalker on the cover of *Spidey Super-Stories*, and the pop-culture context of the death of Elvis Presley. Then we have 1989, ostensibly a quiet year for *Star Wars*, which in fact saw the grand opening of Star Tours in Tokyo, ILM's critical VFX breakthroughs on both *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* and *The Abyss*, and a fateful phone call that started novelist Tim Zahn outlining the first spin-off novel to take place after *Return of the Jedi*, *Heir to the Empire*, sparking the expansion of the Expanded Universe. Think you remember 2005? After spending time with *Year by Year* you might find yourself waxing nostalgic for *Revenge of the Sith*'s early critical buzz (the *New York Times* praised it as "better than [the original] *Star Wars*," the nearly 30,000 fans who packed the Indianapolis convention center in the American heartland for Celebration III, and the hopeful launch of a little website called YouTube).

Star Wars: Year by Year is available from DK in August.



ASK LOBOT

As related to Leland Y. Chee

Was there a scene in Episode III with an AT-AP Walker in it? Cole Greenlees (aged 8), Rimbey, AB The AT-AP (All Terrain Attack Pod)

appears in the background shots of the massive ground battle on Kashyyyk, usually seen as support behind the Wookiee lines. They can also be seen in the background of the shot showing the clones boarding transports before they leave for Kashyyyk.



COMICS

EXPLORE TWO BOUNTY-HUNTING GENERATIONS WITH *STAR WARS: BLOOD TIES*

WORDS: DANIEL WALLACE

DOUBLE YOUR FETT

Does the galaxy's deadliest bounty hunter have daddy issues? The product of a Kaminoan cloning experiment, Boba Fett is a carbon copy of his genetic parent Jango, and also witnessed his progenitor's beheading at the hands of a Jedi Master. What does it mean to Boba that he has to live in the shadow of the great hunter who came before?

Blood Ties is a four-issue series that presents interlocking tales of Jango and Boba Fett, drawing parallels in the way they demonstrate the principles of honor, duty, and family. Written by Tom Taylor (*Star Wars: Invasion*) and illustrated by Chris Scalf (*Star Wars Purge* #3), *Blood*



Cover art by Chris Scalf



ASK LOBOT

As related to
Leland Y. Chee

In *Star Wars: Episode IV A New Hope*, Admiral Motti claims that the Death Star is the ultimate power in the universe. However, Darth Vader challenges his skepticism of the Force by saying, "The ability to destroy a planet is insignificant next to the power of the Force." What examples in the Expanded Universe (novels, comics, etc.) can support Vader's statement?

— Robert K. via e-mail



We could go on for hours about how if it weren't for the Force, the original Death Star itself wouldn't have been destroyed and the entire galaxy wouldn't have been freed from the tyranny of the Emperor. Sure, there's the example of Kyp Durrion using the Force to commandeer a superweapon like the system-destroying Sun Crusher which he used to destroy the Carida system. But let's talk sheer Force power. The Sith Lord Naga Sadow from the *Star Wars Tales of the Jedi: Fall of the Sith Empire* used the Force to cause a double star to explode, just to eliminate a fleet of Republic vessels and to hide his tracks. To top that, in *Star Wars Tales of the Jedi: The Sith War*, Ulic Qel-Droma and Exar Kun orchestrate a plan that rips out the core of a sun causing it to go supernova and creating a shockwave that obliterated

planets beyond the system. And for what? Sure they disposed of some enemies and a few unwanted allies, but ultimately, their goal was to steal some Jedi artifacts. Talk about abuse of power!





Ties begins with a prequel-era adventure of Jango in his prime, on a mission for Count Dooku. But the aftermath of Jango's mission leaves a young boy, Connor Freeman, an orphan. Overtaken by the events in *Attack of the Clones*, Boba is soon orphaned, as well. Years later, fate sets Boba and Connor on a collision course.

Boba is forced to deal with the fallout of his father's sins and a dilemma he never created. Connor, who has plenty of problems of his own, isn't about to react kindly to someone wearing the armor of his father's murderer.

Boba Fett has always had a lot of gray in his character, and his connection to Jango is one more source of ambiguity. "I don't know how much has been revealed to the reader or to Boba himself, but it seemed clear from *Attack of the Clones* that Boba thought Jango was his dad," says Dark Horse Comics vice president Randy Stradley. "And he saw his father cut down by a Jedi. That's bound to leave deep psychological scars. But if Boba found out that he's not really his father's son but rather a clone of the man he thought was his dad—well, that seems like it would be another life-changing moment. Discovering your dad wanted another 'him' would be kind of freaky."

Blood Ties joins a long list of *Star Wars* comics that feature Fett or his Mandalorian-armored comrades, and Dark Horse has a whole lot more in the pipeline (see sidebar). Stradley tries to pin down the

appeal of these silent gunslingers. "There's an old adage that says heroes are defined by their villains, so certainly bad guys are important to comics readers," he says. "We all love the guy we love to hate. But unlike Vader who is doing evil and knows it, or Palpatine who is doing evil and *loves* it, with Boba [or Jango] it's all business. He may know that by taking you in for the bounty on your head that he's ruining the lives of your entire family, but it's never personal. He neither regrets nor relishes the fallout from his actions. He's really more of an anti-hero than a true bad guy."



ASK LOBOT

As related to
Leland Y. Chee

If Boba Fett inherited his father's Mandalorian armor that is blue, how did it become a greenish color?

Alex via e-mail

In *The Clone Wars* season two episode "Death Trap," Boba Fett plants a bomb in Jango's helmet which he hides in the wreckage of a downed Republic attack cruiser. Mace Windu and Anakin go to investigate the cruiser in search of survivors. Anakin spots the helmet but as he goes to pick it up, Mace recognizes the helmet as being Jango's just before the bomb detonates. So

much for Jango's helmet being the exact one worn by Boba. It was suggested by some of the crew working on *Attack of the Clones* that the helmet was the same, and they even added a dent to Jango's helmet which Jango gets during his duel with Obi-Wan on Kamino.

Boba's helmet also had a dent, but while the dent on Jango's was a gash, the dent on Boba's helmet is round. As far as the rest of the armor is concerned, the Expanded Universe points out that Boba has multiple sets of armor and other spare parts. Even Jango had a spare rocket pack, and there are a few minor differences in Boba's armor as seen in *The Empire Strikes Back* and *Return of the Jedi* and the *A New Hope* Special Edition.



IT'S MANDALORIAN SEASON

DARK HORSE SERVES UP ALL THE FETT THAT'S FIT TO PRINT

It's a banner year for fans who love their bounty hunters armored, deadly, and jetpack-equipped! From Spring 2010 through early 2011, Dark Horse is releasing an array of *Star Wars* projects that don't skimp on the Fett factor.

"Visually, the character rocks," points out Dark Horse's Randy Stradley. "Comics fans live, eat, and breathe masked characters, and Fett's helmet is second only to Vader's in evoking menace and mood. Plus, there's all the history on top of the cool design—the dent in his helmet, the scrapes on his armor, the braided Wookiee scalp hanging from his shoulder—everything about him speaks of an adventurous life lived to the limit." From trade paperback collections to all-new limited series, Dark Horse has everything you need to stock up on Fett action that spans the eras.

Star Wars Omnibus: Boba Fett (April 2010): Available now is this 500-page Omnibus that collects the storylines *Death, Lies, and Treachery*; *Man with a Mission*; *Enemy of the Empire*; *Twin Engines of Destruction*; and *Underworld: The Yavin Vassilika*.

Star Wars: Blood Ties

(August–November 2010):

This four-issue saga stars both Jango and Boba in a storyline that unites the prequel and



Art by Danioz

STAR
WARS
OMNIBUS

BOBA FETT



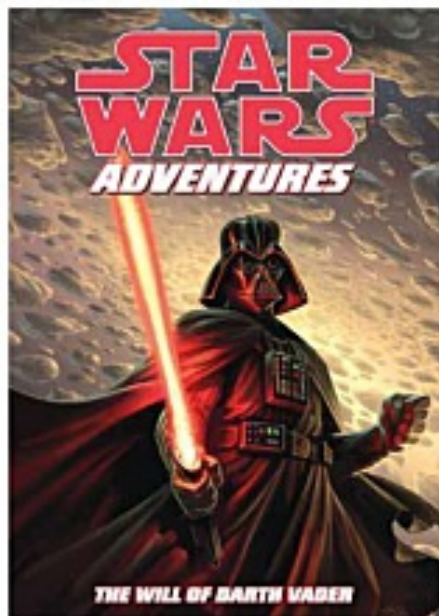
Cover art by Francisco Ruiz Velasco

classic-era timeframes (see lead story.)

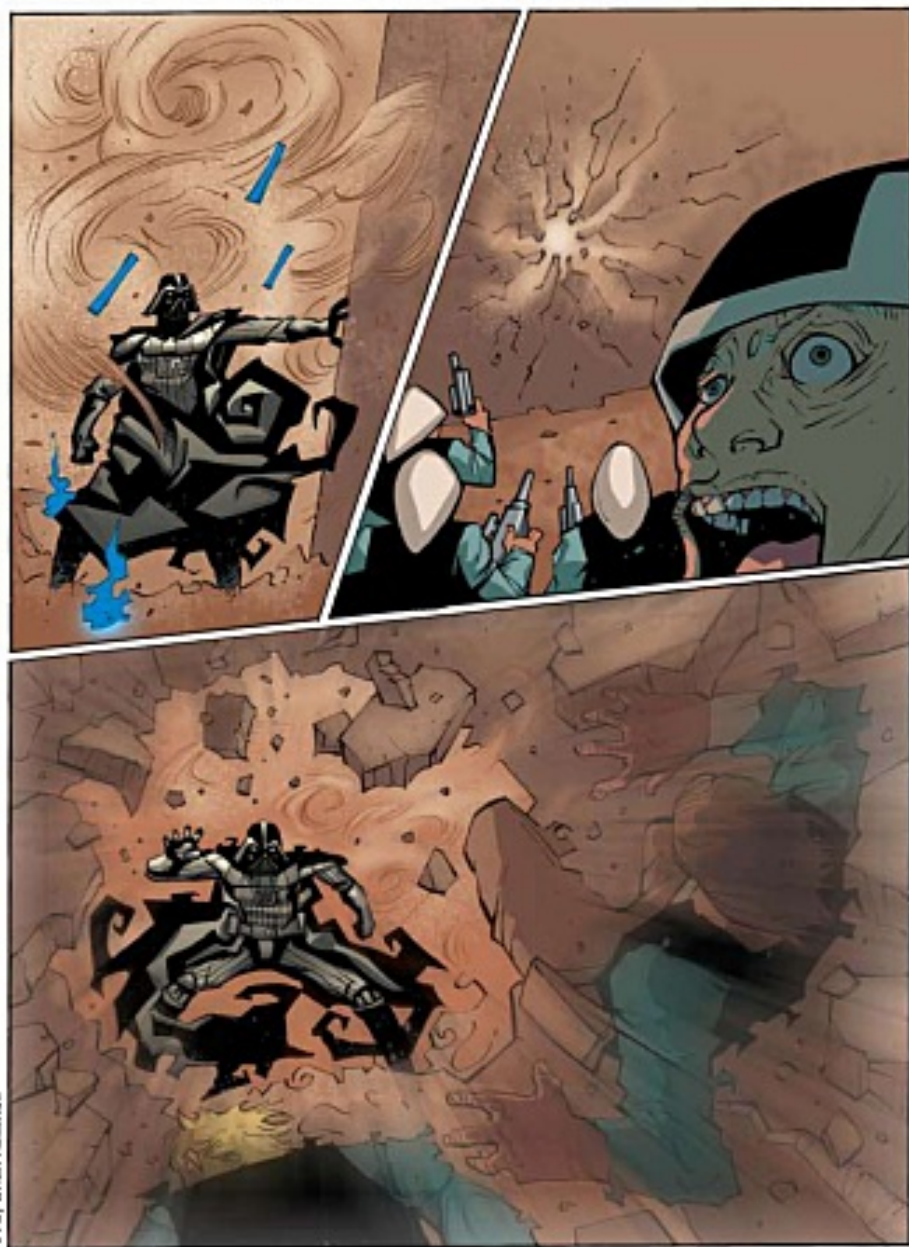
Star Wars Adventures: Boba Fett and the Vault of Terror (February 2011): In the latest digest-sized volume, set during the time of the classic trilogy, the merciless manhunter returns in an adventure involving rival bounty hunters, hidden clues, a spaceship graveyard, and more than a few big, scary monsters. The story is written by Jeremy Barlow (*Star Wars: Rebellion*) and illustrated by Daxiong (*Star Wars Adventures: Luke Skywalker and the Treasure of the Dragonsnakes*).

HIS WILL BE DONE

REBELS DON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST *THE WILL OF DARTH VADER*



With his black armor and his death's-head mask, Darth Vader looks like a living nightmare—and his combat skills are proof that all the gear isn't just for show. But sometimes even a Dark Lord of the Sith can't do it alone. In *Star Wars Adventures: The Will of Darth Vader*, Vader is forced to team up with a snappy, sarcastic smuggler in the hope of penetrating a Rebel base hidden in an asteroid field. The distasteful partnership may prove to be even more vexing than the actual mission in this 80-page, digest-sized tale by writer Tom Taylor and illustrator Brian Koschak (*Star Wars: The Clone Wars—Hero of the Confederacy*), which features a cover by Sean McNally (*Star Wars Adventures: Princess Leia and the Royal Ransom*).



Art by Brian Koschak

Is there any chance that we might get "special editions" of the original trilogy novelizations. I would love to see [own] newly updated editions that take into account the information given in the prequel trilogy. I know there are some things that are counter to the prequels, and there are other areas where I feel the novelizations could be given more depth using the prequels.

Jedi Master RC via starwars.com message boards

There are no current plans to revise the novelizations. Due to production

schedules, the novelizations do not reflect late changes to the scripts, so there are bound to be differences between the novelizations and the final films. When there are changes made after the theatrical release, as was done with the original trilogy Special Editions and DVD releases, the differences between the novels and the current version of the film becomes even greater. In 2004, Ryder Windham wrote original trilogy junior novelizations for Scholastic that do take into consideration what happens in the prequels.



ASK LOBOT

As related to
Leland Y. Chee

INCOMING

INSIDER PREVIEWS THE LATEST *STAR WARS* GEAR YOU'LL WANT IN YOUR COLLECTION! WORDS: CHRIS SPITALE

HASBRO

On shelves this fall will be a new wave of *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* action figures from the popular animated series. Each figure will feature the Galactic Battle

game, which includes a battle card, die, and stand. Figures in the wave include Anakin Skywalker, bounty hunter Aurra Sing, Captain Rex, Commander Cody, Sith

Lord Count Dooku, a destroyer droid, General Grievous, a Mandalorian police officer, Obi-Wan Kenobi, Pre Vizsla, and Jedi Master Yoda.



Hailfire Droid

Straight out of *The Clone Wars*, Hasbro releases a radio-controlled hailfire droid, which includes a clone trooper action figure and fires 18 projectiles remotely!



SIDESHOW

Captain Rex 12-inch Figure

Sideshow releases its second 1/6-scale figure based on the characters of *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*. Clone Captain Rex comes with two blaster pistols, interchangeable hands, rifle, and alternate human head. Retailing for \$124.99, Rex is estimated to ship in the fourth quarter of 2010.

Clone Trooper Lieutenant 12-inch Figure

This *Attack of the Clones* 1/6-scale clone trooper lieutenant is identified by his trademark blue insignia, first seen in the Battle of Geonosis. The figure comes with over 30 points of articulation, as well as a blaster and rifle. It ships in the third quarter of 2010, and is \$89.99.



Senate Duel: Yoda Vs. Darth Sidious Diorama

Sideshow's latest diorama features the epic lightsaber battle between self-declared Emperor Palpatine and Jedi Master Yoda from *Revenge of the Sith*, facing off above the floor of the Galactic Senate. Each piece is hand painted, and retails for \$249.99. The diorama ships in the third quarter of 2010.



LEAPFROG

Leapster Explorer Learning Game

Star Wars: The Clone Wars

With the Leapster Explorer Learning Game, you can use your mathematics skills to save the Republic as you battle your way to a final confrontation with the ultra droid army!

You dodge asteroids and other dangers as you solve geometry problems and more

in four exciting locations in the *Star Wars* universe. You use the Force—and your knowledge of fractions—on your mission to maintain the galactic balance of power, while you use your knowledge of place values to fight the Separatists and their secret droid factory.

Recommended for ages 6-9, and available in July 2010.



LEGO

Available only at the LEGO booth at San Diego Comic-Con 2010, these cube figures are made from everyone's favorite building blocks. Create Yoda, R2-D2, C-3PO, Obi-Wan Kenobi, and Captain Rex. Only a limited quantity will be sold each day of the convention, with purchases determined by a raffle at the booth.



MIMOCO

Star Wars MIMOBOT series six debuts at San Diego Comic-Con and celebrates the 30th anniversary of the release of *The Empire Strikes Back*. The latest line includes Luke Skywalker in Hoth gear,

Wampa ice creature, Imperial snowtrooper, and Jedi Master Yoda. Each comes with a unique tauntaun proto-hoodie! They're available in 2GB or 16GB versions.

Exclusive to Comic-Con and Celebration V is Cloud City aide and Lando confidante Lobot, limited to only 1,000 units total. Lobot is available in versions ranging from 4GB to 16GB.



DISNEY

In 2011, a spectacular new Star Tours adventure will make its debut at the Disneyland Park and Disney's Hollywood Studios. Based on the entire *Star Wars* saga, this immersive attraction will take you on all new adventures in a galaxy far, far away.

Star Tours Starspeeder 1000

In celebration of the new Star Tours attraction, Disney has created an all-new Starspeeder 1000 vehicle, the most sophisticated and luxurious space liner in its class. This lights-and-sound toy will be available exclusively at Celebration V Disney event locations and will not be produced when the attractions re-open. Limited to 10,000 pieces, the item retails for \$24.95.



Shadow Trooper Donald Duck

Donald Duck explores his darker side as he portrays the Empire's stealth soldier, the shadow trooper. With his advanced armor, Donald Duck can create mischief throughout the galaxy and then silently slip away to his next adventure. As part of Disney's *Star Wars* Action Figure Series, this figure will be available exclusively at Celebration V Disney event locations. Limited to 5,000 pieces and retailing for \$11.95, it will come on an individually numbered back card, and it will be in a collector blister-case, molded with the *Star Wars* Celebration V logo.



The Empire Strikes Back 30th Anniversary Commemorative Pin Set
Commemorating the second instalment of the popular film franchise is Disney's 30th anniversary commemorative set of poster pins and sublimated lanyard with Boba Fett medal. The Polish movie poster pin, lanyard and lanyard medal are exclusive to this packaged set and the framed set. The edition is limited to 1,250 units. Other pins are available individually.



Star Tours Boarding Party Pin Set

The Star Tours Boarding Party five-pin set is designed and based on the action figure boxed set available exclusively at the parks. The edition size is limited to 3,000, and the set will retail for \$34.95.



The final version of the framed *Star Wars* Celebration V Logo pin is the complete pin for the framed pin set.

This pin is an edition of 250, and is only available in a framed set. See below for a mock-up of what the final framed set is likely to look like.



HALLMARK OF THE EMPIRE

TO COMMEMORATE *THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK*'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY, HALLMARK RELEASES A SPECIAL COLLECTION OF KEEPSAKE ORNAMENTS IN JULY 2010. *INSIDER* SPOKE WITH HALLMARK'S CHRISTINE TAYLOR, LICENSING CREATIVE MANAGER, AND JULI MCGUIRE, RETAIL MERCHANDISE LEADER.

Star Wars Insider: How did Hallmark's relationship with Lucasfilm begin?

Christine Taylor: In 1994 Hallmark kicked off *Star Wars* licensed product with a line of humorous Shoebox greeting cards, followed by calendars and puzzles. Then 1996 marked the first line of Hallmark Keepsake Ornaments.



The Rebel Snowspeeder is 2010's vehicle ornament. Press a button to hear memorable moments from the scene. \$28.95.

How did the idea for the *Empire Strikes Back* wave come about?
Juli McGuire: We've learned that fans like to have a set of Keepsake Ornaments that coordinate, so we look to anniversaries first to tie them all together, and then scenes and characters that are fan favorites.



Luke Skywalker appears as he did when he traveled to Dagobah. \$14.95.

What are the biggest challenges working on the *Star Wars* line?

JM: Getting the line narrowed down because of all the great content!

How many sculptors worked on this line?

CT: Three artists worked on the *Star*

Wars line this year, two on *The Empire Strikes Back* and one on *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*. Kristina Gaughran sculpted "Luke Skywalker" and "His Master's Bidding." She loves *Star Wars* and has an extensive collection in her office that offers daily inspiration!

Robert Hurlburt sculpted the "Rebel Snowspeeder," "Lando Calrissian," and the "Boba Fett and

"His Master's Bidding" captures Darth Vader and the Emperor plotting against Luke. With the push of a button, the Emperor illuminates and the ornament plays dialogue from the scene. \$32.95.





This Boba Fett and Han Solo in carbonite miniature set is \$14.95.

Han Solo" minis. The first *Star Wars* Keepsake Ornament that Robert worked on was in the 2006 model line.

And there's Tracey Larson, who sculpted the *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* set. He loves animation!

What ornaments can fans expect in the next wave?

CT: For those attending San Diego Comic-Con and *Star Wars Celebration V* in Orlando, come to the Hallmark booth and get a sneak peek of the 2011 *Star Wars* line in progress!

Scoundrel-turned-hero Lando Calrissian is available in limited quantities at Keepsake Ornament Premiere July 10 and 11 and while supplies last.



Master Yoda and Captain Rex from the *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* animated series. \$14.95.



The limited-edition set of protocol droids K-3PO and R-3PO will be offered exclusively at San Diego Comic-Con this July.

Ornaments are available exclusively at Hallmark Gold Crown stores beginning July 10.



VOL.
150

BANTHA TRACKS



BY THE FANS
FOR THE FANS

'TIS THE SEASON

In late spring every year, I find myself immersed in big events. Even though my small-but-mighty events team at Lucasfilm works on productions of all sizes for the company, right now we are poised to pull the trigger on E3, Licensing Show International, San Diego Comic-Con International, SIGGRAPH, GamesCom, PAX... and, of course, the granddaddy of them all, *Star Wars Celebration V*.

With my head lost way up in the collective show stratosphere, I might forget, for the moment, that other shows exist.

Working on this edition of *Bantha Tracks* reminded me not only how much fun all these events can be, but also how important they are to the fan community.

We all like to see what's new. We all like to be entertained. We all like to take part in activities and see the sights at the conventions. But in the end, what is often most important is getting to see our friends who share the same passions as us—friends we often don't see outside of these kinds of events.

If the Force binds the *Star Wars* galaxy together, then friendship often binds *Star Wars* fandom together. In the historic days of the Star Ladies group (now Club Jodel, of which I was an early member, we would gather at conventions, but many of us would spend most of our time in our hospitality suite, visiting with each other and entertaining friends. *Star Wars* was our shared interest, but nurturing our friendships was of prime importance.

I'm looking forward to the shows this summer, and I'm looking forward to glimpsing friends and families enjoying them together, while they forge new friendships along the way.

Mary Franklin
Editor,
Bantha Tracks



The gang's all here. Brought together by their shared interest in... metal... the Leia's Metal Bikini enthusiasts pose for their group portrait in the Lucasfilm pavilion at San Diego Comic-Con 2009. Photo submitted by Jamie Fite.
www.leiasmetalbikini.com



THE STAR WARS WORLD CONVENTION

CANADA

Special thanks to Randy Ko and Phil Darlington

The Canadian Garrison, joined by fellow fans from other Garrisons, was a big part of the entertainment at the 15th annual Fan Expo in Toronto, Canada.

"The con, which usually attracts around 40,000 fans, saw a huge spike in numbers this year, with nearly 60,000 people in attendance," writes Phil Darlington of the Canadian Garrison. "Proof that the world economy is not impeding the need to party!"

Cheryl Watterson of the ISO Imperial Service Organization contributed baked goods for a sale for Make-A-Wish.



"This year the 501st added a blaster range with foam guns, and a few good-humored troopers played the role of the targets," recalls Darlington. "The audience got a real kick out of this, and it helped add to the charity pot for Make-A-Wish."



Troopers from the Capital City Squad (Ottawa, Ontario) and Fortress Imperiale (Quebec) of the Canadian Garrison, as well as Garrison Excelsior and the Ohio Garrison from the U.S., plus representatives from the Polish Garrison and several members of the Rebel Legion joined the Canadian Garrison in Toronto for Fan Expo. Photos by Steve Lam.



Darlington reports that many troopers from the 501st were linked at the show.



Over seventy members of the 501st attended Fan Expo, a record number. "The fans were blown away, as usual, by the costumes and activities that the 501st offered at the event," Darlington notes.

PORTUGAL

Special thanks to Paulo Oliveira

When *Star Wars In Concert* appeared in Lisbon in March, members of the *Star Wars Clube Portugal* enjoyed the show together.



Star Wars Clube Portugal gathered at the Pavilhão Atlântico in Lisbon for *Star Wars In Concert*. At the end of the show, the group was able to give their diploma of honorary VIP membership to actor Anthony Daniels.





SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Any original art, envelope art, comics, illustrations, news, stories, meeting information, or any materials voluntarily submitted become the property of Bantha Tracks. All images should be good enough quality for print (i.e., non-pixelated at 300 dpi screen resolution). Ideal file size approx 1MB per image. No compensation will be given for voluntary submissions, and there is no guarantee of publication. Submissions will not be returned.

Each submission must include the creator's name, age, contact information, date the work was created, and a statement that the work is original, created by the person submitting it, and that the person is a member of the official Star Wars Fan Club. Send your electronic files to banthatracks@starwars.com, or send your snail mail to Bantha Tracks, c/o Mary Franklin, P.O. Box 29901, San Francisco, CA 94129

POLAND

Special Thanks to Lukasz Mlotkowski (text) and Radoslaw Worek (photos)

The Centre for Contemporary Art in Torun, Poland, served as the main venue for StarForce 2009, which celebrated 30 years of *Star Wars* in Poland.

"It underwent a siege of unprecedented proportions," writes Lukasz Mlotkowski. "Fans and guests literally stormed the building. While the staff were told to expect 300 to 400 visitors, final estimates say that 3,500 to 4,000 participants attended, making StarForce the largest Polish *Star Wars* convention to date!"



"The most active area of the convention featured over five hours of programs by the 501st Legion Polish Garrison," reports Mlotkowski. "We gathered huge crowds and entertained visitors by presenting little-known facts about the organization and conducting amusing games for the youngest participants. For those who wished to learn more about Empire's elite forces, Garrison members prepared short, but detailed, presentations on various branches of the Imperial military."

Special guests Richard LeParmentier (Admiral Motti) and Kenneth Colley (Admiral Piett) took command of the stage for interview and popular question and answer sessions.



"The success of StarForce would not have been possible without the people who believed in it, and contributed to it greatly," says Mlotkowski. "First and foremost, a huge thank-you to Lucasfilm's Steve Sansweet, without whom the prestige of our event would no doubt be diminished. We're also grateful to our international guests for accepting our invitation, and to our sponsors for making their visit possible. And let us not forget the efforts of the Polish Garrison and *Star Wars* Fan Clubs from Bydgoszcz and Torun. The StarForce was with us that day..."

"There to set the stage for the convention proper were the triumphant Imperial troopers of the 501st Legion Polish Garrison," says Mlotkowski. "They led the parade through the streets of Torun, accompanied by the WQAK orchestra playing the Imperial March."

TENNESSEE

Special thanks to Jessica Lang
Jessica Lang with actor Ray Park (Darth Maul) at Adventure Con in Knoxville, Tennessee. "He loved my costume, and even signed my copy of *Star Wars Insider*," says Lang.



Jessica Lang and her daughter Caylee pose with their favorite astromech. "This was our first convention together, and I was so glad to have been there, and dressed as our favorite characters from *Star Wars*."

BARCELONA

*Special Thanks to Eduard Grau
"The Musketeer"*

For the third year in a row, *Star Wars* fans celebrated with a parade in Barcelona, Spain.

"Each year it has been a success, which is not just pride and emotion," writes Eduard Grau, "Being organized it better binds us together as a group."



The group organized a photograph contest and a costume contest as part of the celebration.



Grau's children Ines (Clone Commander) and Raul (the wee Ewok).

SAN FRANCISCO

Special thanks to Kathy Skirmant and Karen Louie

WonderCon, the convention produced by the same folks who bring us San Diego Comic-Con each year, is often thought of as the more accessible of the two shows, given its smaller size. However, the portion of fun seems to be every bit as large.

A stormtrooper can't resist the spirit of the Rebel cheerleaders. Photo by Scott Muchow



Matthew Wood (the voice of General Grievous) and Randy Martinez (Star Wars artist) get some words of advice from Jedi Master Yoda.



Costumed Admiral Ackbar with his Cereal. "Your taste buds can't repel flavor of this magnitude!" Costume by Zach Ganschow. Photo by Kathy Skirmant.



A young fan stops by the San Francisco Fan Force table to say hello to Yoda. Photo by Kathy Skirmant



A TIE fighter pilot has a new ride. Photo by David Skirmant

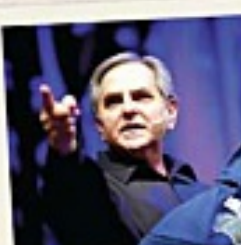


The annual WonderCon group shot of the 501st Legion and visiting honorary members, in front of the Carousel at Zeum. Photo by Karen Louie.

GERMANY

Special Thanks to Michel Verpoorten
JediCon—which took place April 3 to 5 in Düsseldorf, Germany—is a perennially popular fan convention steeped in tradition and entertainment.

Lead by Lucasfilm's Steve Sansweet, the charity auction offered scores of collectibles, such as a vinyl cape vintage Jawa, ILM T-shirts, a Celebration Japan medallion set, and books and clothing from the Skywalker Ranch store.



It's always a treat to see a slave Leia costumer at a convention.

The perfect JediCon transportation.



R2-D2 Builders' Club created another impressive display of perfect droids.

Scene from the Super Jedi show on Saturday night.



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STAR WARS' FINEST!

Being a New York City police officer for 17 years, I've been lucky enough to bump into a few of the main actors from the *Star Wars* movies. I was privileged to safeguard Samuel L. Jackson (Mace Windu) while he was filming the movie *Shaft* at my police precinct. He was a true gentleman. I'm from the Bronx and had a favorite pub there. It just so happened that Harrison Ford (Han Solo) was filming the movie *The Devil's Own* there. Meeting Captain Solo himself was quite a thrill. And on vacation, I met the fearsome bounty hunter Jeremy Bulloch (Boba Fett)!

Terrence Smith, via email



HELLO, WHAT HAVE WE HERE?

I wanted to show you guys this picture of me with Billy Dee Williams. He was not only a great guy to talk to, but he was also very thoughtful in terms of making sure that fans walked away with some great memories as well! I'm new at the whole convention thing, and the MegaCon in Orlando, Florida was only my second convention. I was really amazed on how much fun it was. I read your magazine all the time and was hoping you would show Lando some love!

Sean Watson, North Augusta, South Carolina



A NEW ALLIANCE!

This is a picture of me with loads of *Star Wars* actors at the Holiday Inn Express in Burnley. They, like me, were in town for a *Star Wars* fan organized convention.

Back row: Dave Prowse (Darth Vader), Alan Flyn (Imperial officer, *Return of the Jedi*), Brian Muir (the sculptor who sculpted Darth Vader's helmet and armor—featured in *Star Wars Insider* #93), Jeremy Bulloch (Boba Fett), Derek Lyons (Massassi Temple Guard), Paul Blake (Greedo), Gerald Home (Tessek). Front row: Neil Livesey (me!), Pam Rose (Mos Eisley Cantina alien Leesab Sirlin).
Neil Livesey, Rishton, Lancashire, England



THE CHOSEN ONE!

At the San Diego Comic Con 2009, I had the opportunity to meet one of my childhood heroes, Mark Hamill (Luke Skywalker). I felt like a five-year-old all over again! I also ran into Dave Filoni after getting my animated clone helmet signed by Tom Kane (Yoda, Admiral Yularen, and the narrator in *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*).
Marcy Deklerck, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

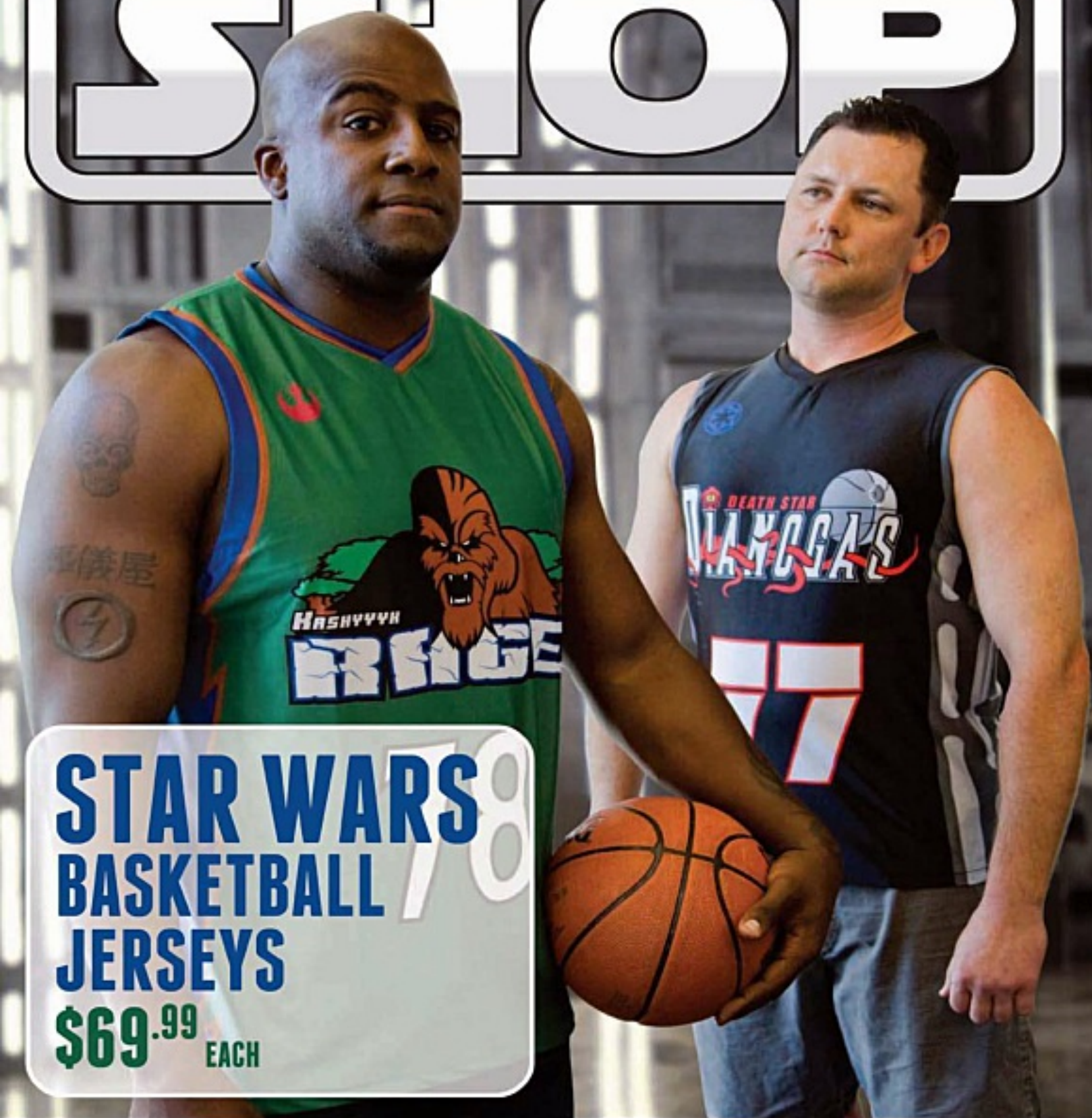


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RED FIVE MUST SEES FOR EMPIRE FANS



STAR WARS FANS KNOW EVERY DETAIL OF THE SAGA, BUT WHAT ELSE SHOULD THEY BE EXPLORING? WE ASKED HUSBAND AND WIFE TEAM, DIRECTOR KYLE NEWMAN (*FANBOYS*) AND ACTRESS JAIME KING (*AURRA SING* ANIMATION VOICE) FOR FIVE MOVIES THAT FANS OF *THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK* SHOULD SEE.

It Happened One Night (1934)

Does this sound familiar: a self-serving fortune hunter and a spoiled socialite are on the run, all the while (reluctantly) falling in love? Frank Capra's screwball comedy took Hollywood by storm decades before *Empire*, boasting unparalleled romantic banter that surely inspired the feisty love-hate relationship between our favorite smuggler and a certain Alderaanian Princess. This film delivers on every level, but what makes it truly memorable is Capra's ability to masterfully develop his characters by placing them in constant peril while on the run.



© SONY PICTURES

Body Heat (1981)

Empire's screenwriter Lawrence Kasdan was very busy at the start of the 1980s. Between his work on *Empire* and *Jedi*, he not only penned a little film called *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, but wrote and directed this taut, smoldering, neo-noir thriller set in the muggy south about an affair gone wrong. While markedly different than his work on *Empire*, it is masterfully constructed, and similarly transcends its influences, rising above the noir films of yesteryear that inspired it. It's fascinating to see what one of the brains behind the original saga's success was up to in his free time. Oh, and George Lucas secretly exec-produced it.



For Three Men
The Civil War
Wasn't Hell.
It Was
Practice!



CLINT EASTWOOD
"THE GOOD,
THE BAD &
THE UGLY"

LEE VAN CLEEF ALDO GIUFFRÉ MARIO BREGA
ELI WALLACH SERGIO LEONE
TECHNICOLOR

3

The Good, The Bad and the Ugly (1966)

Nothing says *Empire* like bounty hunters, and nothing says bounty hunters like Sergio Leone's legendary epic. Set against the backdrop of the Civil War, this spaghetti western is a tale about scoundrels and the actions that define them. It also boasts an Ennio Morricone score almost as iconic as John Williams' *Star Wars*!

Xanadu (1980)

While everyone was still queuing up for the umpteenth time to see the greatest sequel of all time in the summer of 1980, many also bore witness to the neon-boogie splendor of Olivia Newton-John's genre-defying musical epic. Hot on the heels of her smash success with *Grease*, Ms. Newton John was on fire and girls couldn't get enough of the songstress at her peak. The filmmakers somehow managed to blend disco, roller-skating, Gene Kelly, the music of ELO and Greek gods into something entirely 1980s. It's definitely *not* Episode V, but let's face it—what child of the 1970s didn't have an Olivia Newton-John poster next to their *Star Wars* ones back in the day?



4

5



HARRISON FORD
BLADE RUNNER

Blade Runner (1982)

While fanboys around the galaxy were left to suffer a three-year wait to discover the fate of Han Solo, this Ridley Scott masterpiece took moviegoers on an altogether different sci-fi adventure with the newly crowned box office king Harrison Ford. To say that Ford's performance as Rick Deckard (a renegade-android hunting detective) was low-key compared to his turns as both Solo and Indiana Jones would be a massive understatement. But it works for director Ridley Scott's version of Philip K. Dick's source material as we follow Deckard into the underbelly of a stunningly visualized, futuristic Los Angeles to hunt androids. It's philosophical, it's pulpy, and it's not to be missed by any fan of *Star Wars* or Ford.



THE SAGA CONTINUES.... NEXT ISSUE!

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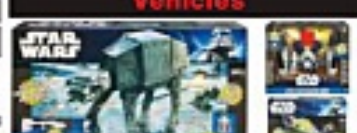
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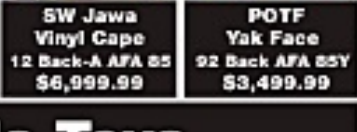
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